SPORTS/ A24

Hingis tests positive for cocaine, retires

ACROSS/ A15

Guimaras fish supply down 65 percent after Aug. 2006 oil spill

NEWS/ A2

Macarambon appointment to Comelec hailed

SATURDAY SPECIAL/ E1

Now, it's Iron Man, Green Lantern coming to the big screen

S. Korea fake degree scandal traced to RP

SEOUL—SOUTH KOREA'S FAKE DEGREE scandal has spread to the military, with 13 Army officers sacked and prosecuted for faking Filipino university degrees.

"Military prosecutors have indicted the 13 lieutenant-level officers for faking degrees," a defense ministry spokesperson told Agence France-Presse on Friday.

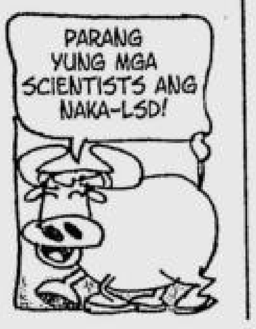
S. KOREA/ A9

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Saturday, November 3, 2007 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 328 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

World's wackiest experiments revealed

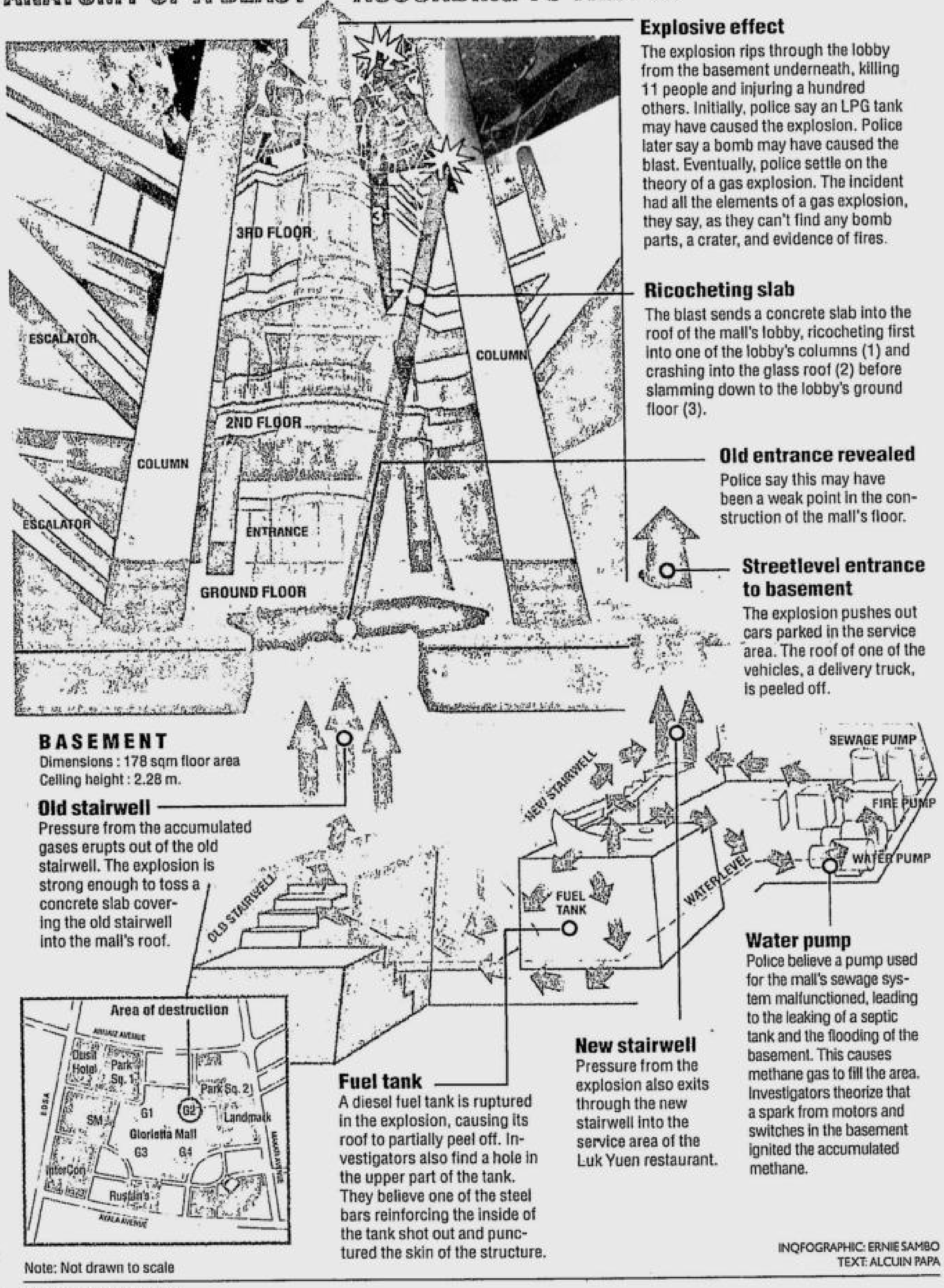
PARIS—ELEPHANT on LSD ... sexual turn-ons for turkeys ... attempts to restore corpses to life: All feature on the list of the "craziest scientific experiments of all time,"

WORLD'S/ A13


PARANG YUNG MGA SCIENTISTS ANG NAKA-LSD!

Palace backs gas theory

ANATOMY OF A BLAST ACCORDING TO THE PNP



Explosive effect
The explosion rips through the lobby from the basement underneath, killing 11 people and injuring a hundred others. Initially, police say an LPG tank may have caused the explosion. Police later say a bomb may have caused the blast. Eventually, police settle on the theory of a gas explosion. The incident had all the elements of a gas explosion, they say, as they can't find any bomb parts, a crater, and evidence of fires.

Ricocheting slab
The blast sends a concrete slab into the roof of the mall's lobby, ricocheting first into one of the lobby's columns (1) and crashing into the glass roof (2) before slamming down to the lobby's ground floor (3).

Old entrance revealed
Police say this may have been a weak point in the construction of the mall's floor.

Streetlevel entrance to basement
The explosion pushes out cars parked in the service area. The roof of one of the vehicles, a delivery truck, is peeled off.

BASEMENT
Dimensions : 178 sqm floor area
Ceiling height : 2.28 m.

Old stairwell
Pressure from the accumulated gases erupts out of the old stairwell. The explosion is strong enough to toss a concrete slab covering the old stairwell into the mall's roof.

Fuel tank
A diesel fuel tank is ruptured in the explosion, causing its roof to partially peel off. Investigators also find a hole in the upper part of the tank. They believe one of the steel bars reinforcing the inside of the tank shot out and punctured the skin of the structure.

New stairwell
Pressure from the explosion also exits through the new stairwell into the service area of the Luk Yuen restaurant.

Water pump
Police believe a pump used for the mall's sewage system malfunctioned, leading to the leaking of a septic tank and the flooding of the basement. This causes methane gas to fill the area. Investigators theorize that a spark from motors and switches in the basement ignited the accumulated methane.

Note: Not drawn to scale

INQFOGRAPHIC: ERNIE SAMBO
TEXT: ALCUIN PAPA

SOURCE: PNP INVESTIGATION

PNP sifts through mall basement for evidence

By Christine O. Avendaño, DJ Yap and Alcuin Papa

DESPITE VARIOUS CALLS FOR an independent inquiry, Malacañang is backing the findings of the Philippine National Police that a buildup of gases had caused the powerful explosion at the Glorietta 2 mall on Oct. 19.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita on Thursday said that the Palace would "go by the result" of the PNP investigation. He also expressed relief that the blast that killed 11 people and injured more than 100 others was not an act of terrorism.

"As chairman of the Anti-Terrorism Council, [I say] it's a good thing that it was not attributed to terrorists. [If it were a terror act] it will affect our economy, our standing in the world community," Ermita said at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Asked whether the Palace was satisfied with the result of the PNP probe, he said: "We are not happy about the explosion because people's lives were lost and many were injured—more than 100. But we just have to go by the result of the investigation."

The PNP has yet to issue its final report on the blast, but has ruled out a bomb as the cause. It has also said it was now looking into "possible negligence" and was hinging its "gas explosion" theory on the design of the Glorietta 2 basement.

The mall is part of the Glorietta complex in Makati City operated by Ayala Land Inc. (ALI).

Reacting to Ermita's statement in support of the police findings, ALI spokesperson Alfonso Reyes yesterday said the real estate firm was hoping to be furnished a copy of the PNP official report as soon as possible.

"We hope that they will also make public the separate reports of the other agencies so that we can better understand their specific pieces of evidence and how they have been, able to establish facts that would support their conclusion," Reyes said.

Both ALI and Makati Mayor Jejomar Bi-

PALACE / A8

EDWIN BACASMAS

WORKERS retrieve the pump from the Glorietta 2 basement. Police hope the pump would yield clues to the explosion.

Old Pinoy ingenuity, faith power Sinag run

By Tarra Quismundo

FILIPINO INGENUITY AND FAITH powered the country's rookie solar car race team all the way to the finish line of the 3000-kilometer World Solar Challenge held in Australia.

All first-timers in solar car construction and operation, the 15-man Team Sinag (sunray) carried the Philippine flag in the WSC desert race, the most prestigious competition for solar-powered cars.

The country's pioneering solar car team finished 11th out of 20 teams in

OLD PINOY/ A13

Now, it's little Nena seeking protection of amparo

By Jerome Aning

THE MILITANT PEASANT GROUP Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) and the guardians of an 8-year-old girl whom Army soldiers in Cebu reportedly abducted and interrogated last month are considering seeking a writ of amparo to protect her from further harassment.

KMP-Cebu, which gave the girl the sobriquet "Nena," said she had been "heavily traumatized" by the soldiers' "inhumane interrogation" on the whereabouts of her parents, whom they accused of being members of the communist New People's Army (NPA).

In Manila, KMP deputy secretary general Willy Marbella said the soldiers involved should be punished for their action.

"They have robbed the child of her innocence, and she will carry psycho-

NOW, IT'S/ A9

Strong peso softens oil price impact

By Michele V. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC MANagers and monetary officials yesterday said the rapid appreciation of the peso would soften the impact of surging world crude prices on prices of basic commodities.

Officials of the National Economic Development Authority (Neda) and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) played down the threat posed by record crude prices on the government's inflation and growth targets.

US crude for December delivery hit an all-time high of $96.24 per barrel on Thursday, although prices eased near $94 on Friday. According to analysts, many investors are betting tight supplies will drive crude prices to $100 a barrel or higher, and look at price declines as buying opportunities.

But Myrna Asuncion, officer in charge of Neda's policy and planning division, told the INQUIRER that high crude prices would not significantly jack up local commodity prices. While oil prices are rising, the peso has also been hitting highs against the US dol-

STRONG/ A6

Doing a Garci, Lintang Bedol vanishes without trace in Cotabato

By Charlie C. Señase
Inquirer Mindanao
Alcuin Papa
and Beverly T. Natividad
in Manila

LIKE HIS FORMER BOSS VIRGILIO Garcillano, who vanished without a trace after the "Hello Garci" scandal broke out, Maguindanao election supervisor Lintang Bedol seems to have disappeared at a time when the authorities want him.

Police armed with an arrest warrant for him yesterday said they were told by his wife, Kadigia, that Bedol left his Cotabato City home on Oct. 20 with unidentified armed men in military uniform—and he has not been heard from since.

"We received information that two days before the issuance of the warrant of arrest, he left. We don't know where he is now," Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, commander of the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) police, told the INQUIRER yesterday.

"We are checking all information on his whereabouts," Goltiao said.

Chief Insp. Willie Kasuyo, head of the Cotabato City police team assigned to arrest the poll official, said they went to Bedols' house in Barangay Uno on Oct. 23 to serve the warrant but they were told by Kadigia that her husband was gone.

"We did not believe her so we searched the house. He was not really

DOING A8

Pinoy expat picked for Olympic run

BEIJING—A FILIPINO MARKETING manager of an international design company is among eight foreigners living in China who have been picked to join the 2008 Beijing Olympic torch relay across the country, organizers said yesterday.

The runners were picked from among 262 applicants in a contest organized by Chinese computer maker and Olympic sponsor Lenovo Group and the government newspaper China Daily. Each will carry the torch for 200 meters on Chinese soil.

Marco Antonio Torres of the Philippines, a marketing manager for M

PINOY A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Eastern Luzon and Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Mostly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Mostly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Mostly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Mostly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: RHEA BLANCAS, PDI RESEARCH/11/02/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

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Second FrontPage

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Macarambon appointment welcomed

WHAT'S INSIDE

US MILITARY tracks hijacked ships in Somalia /A3

NEW CORAL species found off Kalayaan and Batangas isle /A7

JUDGE FIRED, another fined for bad behavior against women /A4

By Michael Lim Ubac and Grace Cantal-Albasin
Inquirer Mindanao

THE APPOINTMENT OF ILIGAN City Judge Moslemen Macarambon as a commissioner in the Commission on Elections may be anathema to certain opposition politicians but it is a welcome development to Muslims in Mindanao and elsewhere.

The man who blew the whistle on the alleged cheating in Lanao del Sur during the 2004 presidential elections said "President Arroyo's choice of Macarambon is commendable."

Macarambon is "a principled man whose disposition cannot be swayed by money," said Hadji Abdullah Dalidig, chair of the Islamic Movement for Electoral Reform and Good Governance (Imergg), and the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) in Lanao del Sur.

This trait "makes [for] a good poll administrator, being free from the influence of politicians," said Dalidig in a phone interview.

Dalidig said that based on the background check that his group conducted, Macarambon has no relative engaged in politics.

He shares the surname of former Lanao del Sur Rep. Benasing Macarambon Jr. but they are not relatives, he said.

Macarambon's appointment has been criticized by opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson who described him as "a known Garci protege and election operator," referring to former election commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, a central figure in the 2004 "Hello Garci" scandal.

Lacson claimed it was Garcillano who had recommended Macarambon and has vowed to oppose the appointment at the congressional Commission on Appointments.

Garcillano yesterday said Lacson should check his facts before making any claims.

Interviewed by phone from Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte, Garcillano said Macarambon was never his protege.

Garcillano said he might have been mistaken for his cousin, lawyer Tomas Garcillano, who practices law in Iligan City where Macarambon has been a trial court judge for the past four years.

Garcillano said that during his stint as Comelec commissioner he had a staff member whose surname was Macarambon.

"Reynold (the staff member) is not related to Moslemen. Even their looks are far different," he said.

The Genuine Opposition spokesman Adel Tamano said he was pleasantly surprised to hear of the appointment of Macarambon, a fellow Maranao and family friend who once served on the legislative staff of his father, former Sen. Mamintal Tamano.

"As far as our family knows, he is a competent lawyer, a fair judge, a good family man and a decent person. If he does have relations with Garci, that would have happened after he worked for my father," Tamano said.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said Macambon was chosen from a list of three Muslim lawyers and judges, based on the recommendations of former Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr. when he was presidential adviser on poll reforms.

Macarambon filled the post vacated by Mehol K. Sadain, a Maguindanaoan, who retired last year.

"Sadain is a Muslim, so it follows that we appoint another Muslim," Ermita said, adding that the appointment was "beyond politics."

Macarambon himself confirmed in an interview that he had applied for the job with Malacañang in July 2006 after Sadain retired. He thought that maybe it was time for a Maranao to be appointed to the post.

He said that at least one of the seven seats at the poll body is traditionally given to a Muslim from the time of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos. He asked Lacson to give him "the benefit of the doubt."

"I have not been a politician. I am not related to a politician," he said. *With reports from Dona Pazzibugan and Ryan D. Rosauro, Inquirer Mindanao*

Ex-SC justice may head poll body

By Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo is likely to appoint a former Supreme Court justice to head the Commission on Elections.

A Malacañang official, who was not authorized to speak on the record, said the President is choosing from a list of former high court justices to fill up the vacancy created when former Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. quit last Oct. 1 after being implicated in the national broadband network scandal.

The official did not reveal the names, but denied that former Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr. was on the list.

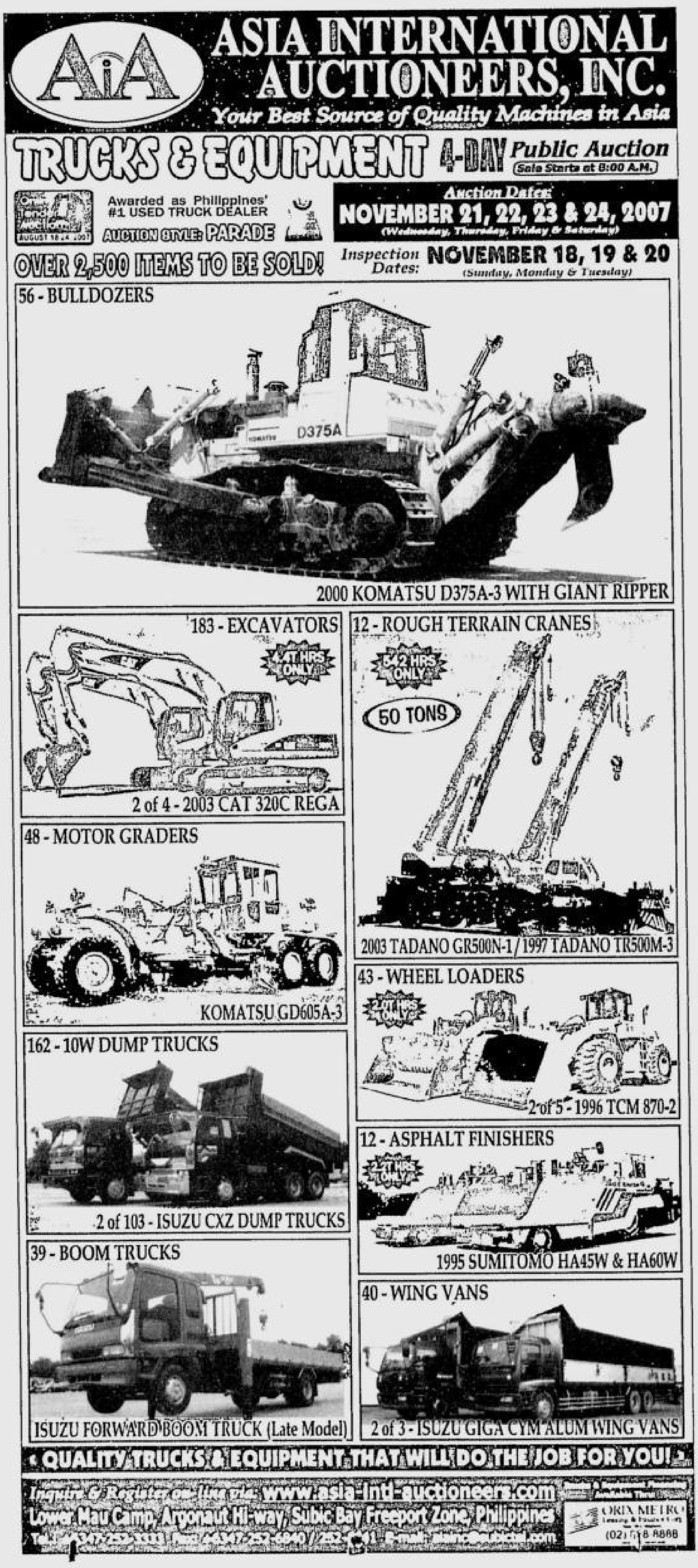
"He can't just give up his post in the United Nations," said the official.

After his retirement from the Supreme Court, Davide became presidential adviser on electoral reforms and then permanent representative to the United Nations.

The official also disclosed that the President was also in the process of filling up the vacancy in the Supreme Court following the retirement of Associate Justice Cancio Garcia last Oct. 20.

Among those being considered are three Court of Appeals members and three Sandiganbayan senior associate justices "close to the President's heart".

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, who is not the INQUIRER source, said he has yet to be informed of any new Comelec appointee apart from the most recent one, Moslemen Macarambon.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US military tracks ships hijacked off Somalia

NAIROBI—THE US NAVY IS monitoring two foreign-flagged cargo ships off Somalia's coast with the aim of removing Somali pirates who hijacked the vessels and held their crew, including nine Filipinos.

"The goal is to get the pirates off the ships so the ships can return to legitimate shipping traffic and transit," said Commodore Lydia Robertson, a spokesperson for the US Fifth Fleet in Bahrain.

The US Navy engaged the North Korean and Japan-owned ships in recent days off Somalia's coast, at one point firing to destroy pirate skiffs tied to the Japanese boat.

The crew aboard the North Korean ship had overpowered the pirates that had boarded it in a clash that left several wounded and dead. US Navy personnel later boarded the North Korean vessel to treat the wounded.

On Sunday, the guided missile destroyer USS Porter fired at and destroyed two pirate boats tied to the hijacked Japanese-flagged ship, Golden Nori, which is loaded with the highly flammable benzene, an industrial solvent. The US military said it was aware of what was onboard when it fired at the boats.

The Golden Nori was headed for Europe when it was hijacked Sunday off the Somali coast carrying 23 crew—nine Filipinos, two South Koreans and 12 Burmese citizens.

A Durval Shipping official in Tokyo said Thursday there has been no development since Wednesday when the company confirmed its crew on Golden Nori had not been injured.

Restituto Bulilan, the ship's captain, had phoned the Japanese company and his family in the Philippines, Foreign Undersecretary Esteban Conejos said.

"The captain of the kidnapped ship was able to contact the principal (the owners) in Japan to inform them that the crew is being treated well and that they are all safe," Conejos said.

Conejos said there has been no ransom demand from the pirates. But the sister of a Filipino crew member said the hijackers are expected to demand a ransom soon.

Josefina Villanueva, the sister of the 48-year-old Filipino supervisor Laureano Villanueva, told The Associated Press that the talks are just starting. "I think the pirates will later on demand something," she said.

Conejos, however, reiterated the government's no-ransom policy, adding that the government is "doing everything" to save the crew.

Conejos said there has been no direct contact between the Philippine government and the pirates.

"We won't talk directly to them. We talk with the host government or the Filipinos' employer, in this case the Japanese company" that owns the ship, he said. "We're hoping for the best. We're praying for the best."

"The problem is there is no central government in control (in Somalia)," he said.

Somalia has been without a functioning government since warlords overthrew dictator Mohamed Siad Barre in 1991, then turned on each other. The current government was formed in 2004, but has struggled to assert any real control.

Villanueva said the sailors' families were being updated regularly by the Department of Foreign Affairs and officials of Seacrest Maritime Management Inc., the agency which recruited the Filipino crew to work on Golden Nori.

"All of us are worried. We want to ensure the safety of our brother," she said. "We're holding daily prayers in our house. I hope the government can help us deal with this problem so my brother could be free again."

Redentor Anaya, vice president for operations of Seacrest Maritime, confirmed that the captain called the Japanese ship owner on Wednesday, the same day he called his family in the Philippines, to say they were all safe.

"The crew are OK, so far, but we don't know what the demands of the pirates are," Anaya said. *AP with a report from Cynthia D. Balana*

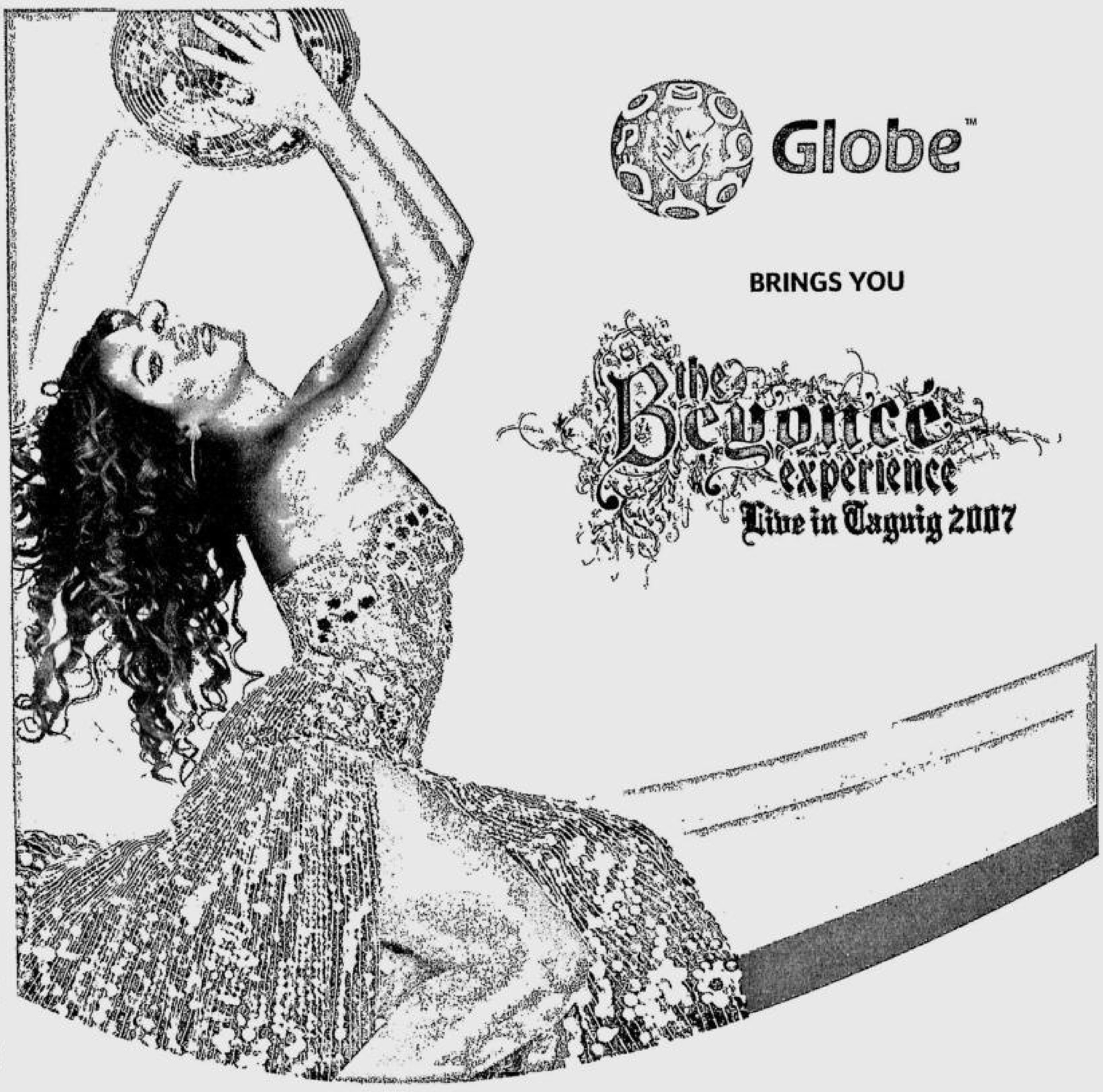
Blitz Padua; 50

CEFERINO "BLITZ" PADUA JR., a multi-awarded musical director, died of heart attack on Wednesday while playing the keyboard at a Halloween party in Merville Park, Parañaque City. He was 50.

Blitz Padua was involved in music production since his high school days at Ateneo de Manila. As a musical director, he was awarded three trophies by the Film Academy of the Philippines in three productions, notably Lito Lapid's celebrated "Lapu-lapu."

The youngest son of lawyer Cefie and college professor Nellie Padua, Blitz graduated with an AB Economics degree from the University of the Philippines.

His body lies at Rizal Funeral Homes in Pasay City. Burial has been scheduled on Sunday afternoon.



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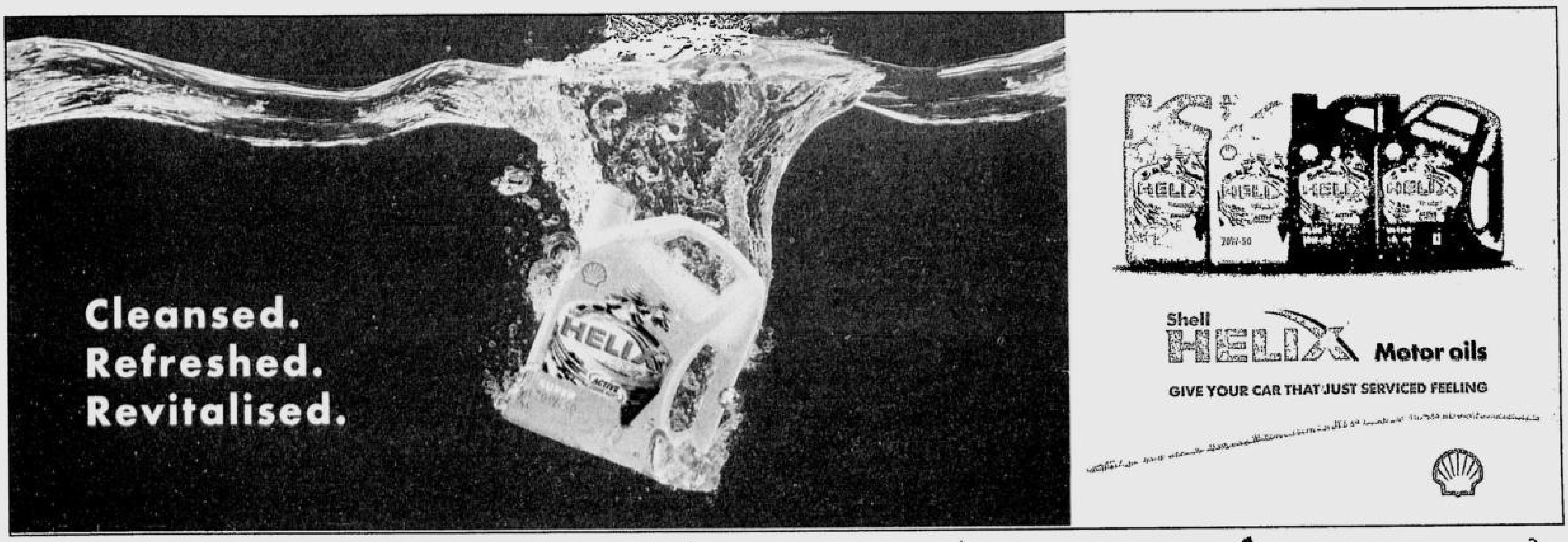

Judge fired, another fined for offensive behavior vs women

By Leila B. Salaverria

TWO JUDGES HAVE BEEN brought down for their offensive behavior against women.

The Supreme Court dismissed Bohol Judge Manuel de Castro for gross misconduct and immorality as a result of his actions in a videoke bar that the high court said was unbecoming of an officer of the court.

The tribunal said De Castro violated the Code of Judicial Conduct when he made sexual advances and acted lasciviously against two women in a videoke bar. One of the women filed an administrative complaint against the judge.

It said De Castro teased one of the women about her scanty attire and kissed her on the cheek, and kissed the complainant behind the ear.

He was also found to have tried to follow the complainant into the bathroom at the urging of his friends, and was only stopped when she threatened to call the police.

These "peccadilloes" reflected on De Castro's utter disregard of public opinion or the reputation of the judiciary which he represents," the high court said in its Oct. 17 ruling.

The complainant initially filed a rape case against De Castro, but later withdrew it.

The Bohol prosecutor dismissed the criminal aspect of the rape case, but forwarded the complaint to the Supreme Court's Office of the Court Administrator (OCA).

The OCA could not pin De Castro on the rape charge, but found him guilty of gross misconduct and immorality and recommended his dismissal and disbarment.

The OCA said the complainant had gone to its office and said that De Castro's driver had threatened her against pursuing the rape charge and confirmed her earlier charge of rape.

The high court said the retraction was suspicious, considering of the complainant's social standing and economic status.

"On the whole, all roads logically lead to the conclusion that the respondent judge has indeed failed to behave in such a way that will promote confidence and respect for the judiciary. He deported himself in a manner most unbecoming a judge as a model of moral uprightness," it said.

In another case, the high tribunal fined Bacolod Judge Anastacio Rufon P5,000 for using language in court that offended a woman who was party to a case he was handling.

Rufon was also warned that a repeat of the offense would merit heavier sanctions.

The high court found the judge guilty of vulgar and unbecoming conduct when he told Cynthia Bagtas-Serios in open court that "next time you see your husband, open your arms and legs."

Serios said she was "humiliated and insulted."

The high court sustained the finding of the investigating justice that Rufon, who denied the charge, had used "intemperate and obscene language injurious to the sensitivity and feelings of complainants who are all women."

The complaint was filed by Serios' woman lawyer and two others.

The Supreme Court said judges should be temperate in their language and should avoid inflammatory or excessive rhetoric, as well as "language of vilification."

The "noble position" of judge mandates that those who hold it should be polite in and out of the court room, the high court said.

Probe of Rapu-Rapu fishkill urged

A MILITANT FISHERFOLK group is seeking an independent investigation of last Sunday's fishkill in Rapu-Rapu, Albay, after environment officials initially cleared the mining firm in the island of any hand in the incident.

The Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas said yesterday it would ask the help of independent marine scientists and chemists to determine the cause of the fishkill.

Pamalakaya national chair Fernando Hicap said in a statement they feared that the investigation by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources would lead to a "whitewash."

Citing initial results of their investigation, DENR officials in Region 5 said that the fishkill site was 10 km away from the Lafayette Philippines Inc. polymetallic project, and that there was no massive fishkill. *TJ Burgonio*

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FAMILY REMEMBRANCE

A CARETAKER takes a nap, while another sweeps the trash left behind by the people who trooped to the Manila North Cemetery to visit the tombs of their loved ones on Thursday and Friday.

PHOTOS BY REM ZAMORA

'Undas' peaceful – PNP

By Alcuin Papa

THE TRADITIONAL OBSERVANCE of All Souls' Day was "generally peaceful" in Metro Manila as compared to last year, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said yesterday.

National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) chief Director Geary Barias said as of yesterday, police only received one report of violence in the metropolis, a stabbing incident in Pateros last Nov. 1.

Last year, Barias said there were a total of four violent incidents reported for all of the 72 cemeteries in Metro Manila.

Barias credited the deployment of 5000 policemen, 4000 "force multipliers" like civic volunteer groups, and 500 soldiers from the Armed Forces' National Capital Region Command (NCRComm) for helping maintain peace and order in cemeteries. Police had also gone on full alert for the All Souls' Day celebrations.

"We expect lesser visitors today but our policemen will still be there to guard the cemeteries," Barias said yesterday.

He also said he has ordered a one-third reduction of the deployment of policemen to cemeteries to be transferred to bus terminals, seaports and airports until Saturday.

"After Saturday, we will determine if there is a need to lower our alert status," he said.

After the All Souls' Day celebration, Barias said they are already preparing for security operations for the coming Christmas season.

"We will have some activities lined up like increased police visibility in critical areas," Barias said.

He said they would focus on places of convergence favored by holiday shoppers like the Quiapo, Divisoria, Baclaran and the big malls in Metro Manila.

Barias said he would order more policemen to guard certain areas in Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City where holdup incidents are rampant.

"We will make sure our shoppers and commuters will be safe," he said.

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Give fellow some slack, Erap lawyer appeals to Sandigan

THE LAWYER OF DEPOSED PRESIDENT Joseph Estrada has appealed to the Sandiganbayan to "give the fellow some slack" following pronouncements that it would run after his personal assets if it fails to find the P876-million illegally amassed wealth it forfeited in favor of the government.

"Mr Estrada is moving through a period of readjustment. He has to attend to an ailing mother. He is not fleeing. He is not absconding or disposing of property. He will do the right thing," said co-lead counsel Rene Saguisag in a manifestation.

He also appealed to the court that it give Estrada a break in view of the fast-approaching "season of grace and goodwill."

Renato Bocar, executive clerk of court and acting Sandiganbayan spokesperson, earlier stated that the antigraft court could confiscate Estrada's assets should he refuse to give up the money and property specified in its Sept. 12 decision.

In the decision convicting Estrada of plunder, the court ordered the forfeiture of P545.291 million in "jueteng" payoffs with interest, including the P200 million deposited in a bank account of the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation; the P189 million in commission from the purchase of Belle Corp. shares and the P142-million "Boracay Mansion" in New Manila, Quezon City. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

Corrections

IN THE OCT. 31 ISSUE, AN ARTICLE on Page A2—"Name people above fray to Comelec"—misstated that Amado Valdez was a former dean of the University of the East law school. Valdez is the current dean of the UE College of Law.

* * *

IN THE NOV. 2 ISSUE, AN ARTICLE ON Page A2—"Comelec appointee opposed"—misstated the age of Moslemen Macarambon Sr. He is 58—not 66—years old.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, November 3, 2007
30th Week in Ordinary Time
Martin de Porres
1st Reading: Rom 11:1-2, 11-12, 25-29
Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-11

One Sabbath Jesus had gone to eat a meal in the house of a leading Pharisee, and he was carefully watched.

Jesus then told a parable to the guests, for he had noticed how they tried to take the places of honor. And he said, "When you are invited to a wedding party, do not choose the best seat. It may happen that someone more important than you has been invited, and your host, who invited both of you, will come and say to you: 'Please give this person your place.' What shame is yours when you take the lowest seat!

"Whenever you are invited, go rather to the lowest seat, so that your host may come and say to you: 'Friend, you must come up higher.' And this will be a great honor for you in the presence of all the other guests. For whoever makes himself out to be great will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be raised."

Commentary

Most of the early members of the church were Jews. Jesus was a Jew but many in Israel did not come to believe that Jesus was the awaited Messiah because he was more than that, more than what was awaited-he is God, for those who believe that he is the fullness of the promises, the law, and the hopes of all the years of waiting in Israel. Now God in Jesus belongs to every tribe and nation. But Israel is beloved of God always. They were his first people, his dearest treasure, and God's gifts are irrevocable. We must be careful not to let Paul and others' words influence negatively how we feel and relate to the people of Israel. And we must make sure that we live in such a way that our lives reveal the presence of God in Jesus crucified and risen now in the world. We must live humbly, truthfully, and with respect for all.

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Libingan burial for heroes' wives?

'TILL DEATH THEY WON'T PART.

The wife of a retired general is spearheading a signature campaign to convince the government to allow wives to be buried with their husbands at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

"A man won't become a hero if not for a supportive wife," Carmencita Dulig said in Filipino during a recent interview at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

She said soldiers are able to concentrate on their jobs and have "peace of mind" in the field, fighting for the country, because they know their wives are looking after their homes and taking care of their children.

Dulig said it was actually her husband, retired Brig. Gen. Melendrino Dulig, who brought up the idea of couples being buried together at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

He wants it to be his "legacy" to the soldiers, Dulig said.

She said her husband believed it would be wonderful for a couple to be together in their final resting place.

"That is, if the husband would agree to have his wife with him where he's buried," Dulig chuckled.

Dulig added that it should be the "legitimate and original" wives who should be given the privilege of being buried at the Libingan with their husbands.

Dulig pointed out that President Macapagal-Arroyo's mother, Eva, is also interred at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, like her father, former President Diosdado Macapagal.

"It's the same story with us (soldiers' wives)," Dulig said.

Dulig said her and husband's proposal has the support of Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita who encouraged them to gather at least 10,000 signatures in their drive.

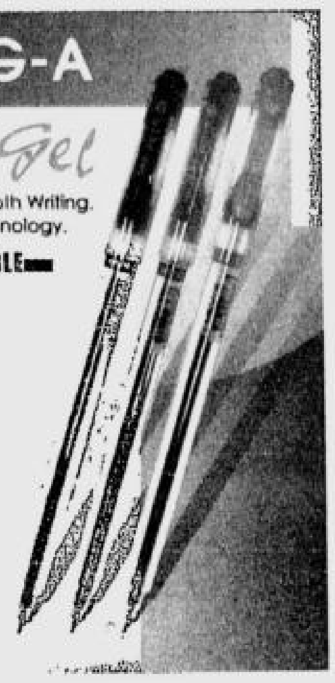
At present, only the cremated remains of the deceased wives can be buried with their husbands at the Libingan, according to Col. Joel Enrile, commanding officer of the Grave Services Unit of the Philippine Army Support Command.

The urn is placed on top of the soldier's coffin, he said.

Enrile said that it would be quite impossible to have two coffins on top of one another because the grave is only six feet deep.

Former Presidents, national artists, recognized guerrillas from World War II, government dignitaries, statesmen, and military personnel who served the Armed Forces are among those who can be buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Nikko Dizon



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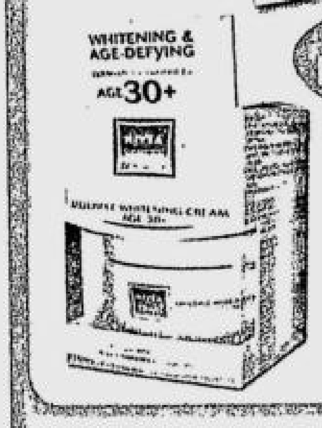

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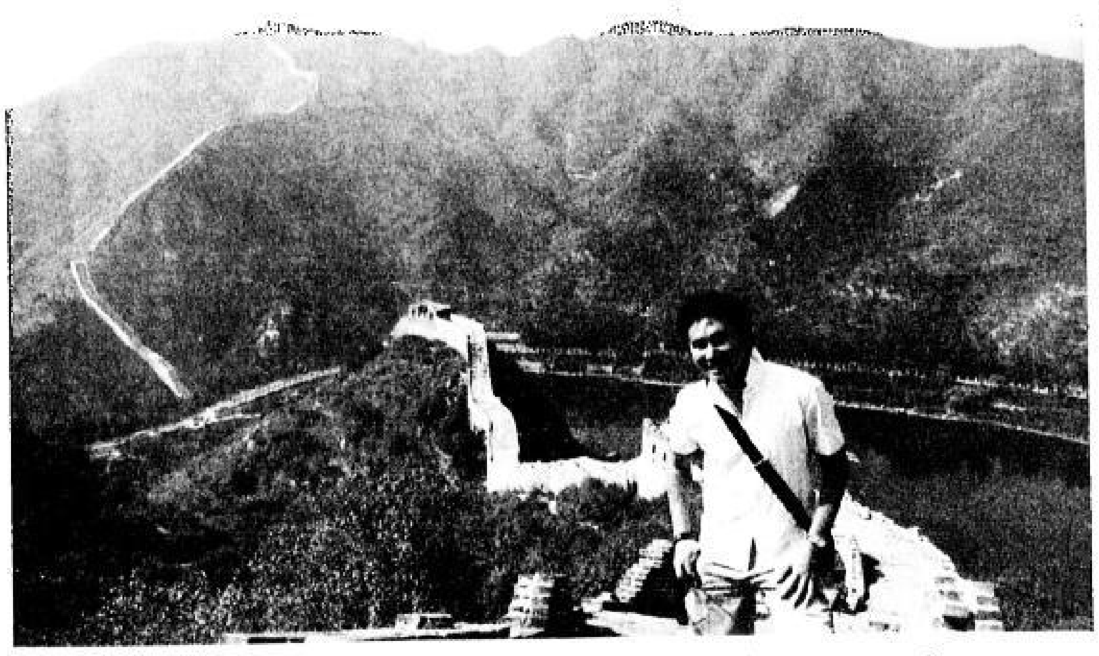

MARCO Antonio Torres, shown here posing at the Great Wall of China, has been picked to join the 2008 Beijing Olympic torch relay. He launched an online campaign to appeal for votes. PHOTO FROM TORRES' WEBSITE

Pinoy expat picked for Olympic run

From page A1

Moser Associates, an international firm specializing in the creation of interior offices and work-support facilities based in Beijing, was chosen from the top 100 candidates, including four Filipinos, CNN's Beijing Bureau Chief and correspondent Jaime Florcruz and daughter Michelle, Noel M. Novicio and Jeremy Sy.

Torres said he launched an online campaign to appeal for votes which made him a celebrity in his homeland.

"It started out with one e-mail which I forwarded to people in my address book. After that, I wrote a blog, and then a day or two after, there were over 1,000 blogs about my appeal," said 38-year-old Torres.

"Then I went to the Philippines for national holidays and I was invited by TV and radio. In fact, it wasn't just any TV and radio shows. I appeared on the No. 1 radio station in the Philippines," he said.

Torres has been living and working in the Chinese capital since June 2006. He also writes for Metrozine, which he describes as the top bilingual magazine in Beijing.

Ultimate dream

He wanted to witness the 2008 Olympics so much he declined an opportunity to move to Shanghai.

In his desire to become an Olympic torchbearer, Torres "e-mailed everyone [he] possibly [knew] including [his] office e-mail address," which connected over 400 persons in nine cities worldwide, to ask them to vote for him.

In the website www.pinoytorchbearer.com, he said that even company founder Moira Moser voted for him.

Numerous blogs, websites, television and radio stations in the Philippines have supported him in his dream.

A sports buff, Torres was captain of his college's volleyball team and had won amateur badminton tournaments. He also enjoys bowling and playing tennis.

Real China

The other winners come from the United States, India, Venezuela, Germany, Russia, Japan and Colombia. They will be among 19,400 runners who will carry the torch next August.

The final selection was made by a panel of Lenovo and China Daily employees after nearly 300,000 people voted in a month-long online campaign, according to the newspaper.

Candidates had to appreciate Chinese culture and history and be devoted to communicating the "real China" to the world, the China Daily said.

Lucky seven

The winners still require approval by the Beijing Organizing Committee of the games.

The other winners are:

- Jenny Bowen, from San Francisco, USA, who runs a foundation to help Chinese orphans and lives in Beijing.
- Meena Barot, from India, a business manager in the northern Chinese city of Shijiazhuang.
- Yoshitoshi Mizuya, from Nagano, Japan, chair of a Beijing-based computer company.
- Luis Hong-Sanchez, from Colombia, a student in the southern Chinese city of Zhuhai.
- Yury Ilyakhin, from Moscow, general manager of a Beijing information technology company.
- Deirdre Smyth, who has dual British-Venezuelan nationality, a graphic designer in Beijing.
- Werner Ebel, from Berlin, a civil engineer in the central Chinese city of Zhengzhou.

Beijing organizers plan to stage the longest torch relay in Olympic history—a 137,000-kilometer, 130-day route across five continents.

There have been controversies over its proposed passage through Tibet and Taiwan. Taiwan, a self-ruled island that Beijing claims as part of its territory, rejected Beijing's terms for inclusion on the route. Tibet independence supporters accuse Beijing of using the relay to convey false harmony in the Himalayan region that Chinese troops occupied in 1951. *AP and a report from Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

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Why oil prices are high

US OIL HIT A RECORD HIGH $96.24 A BARrel on Nov. 1 after a steeper-than-expected drop in US crude oil stocks and a further cut in US interest rates.

Strong demand for crude and a weak dollar have fueled the rally from a dip below $50 at the start of the year.

Adjusted for inflation, oil is still below the $101.70 peak hit in April 1980, according to the International Energy Agency, a year after the Iranian revolution.

Dollar weakness

The fall in the value of the dollar against other major currencies has helped drive buying across commodities as investors view dollar assets as relatively cheap.

It has also reduced the purchasing power of the revenues of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) and increased the purchasing power of some nondollar consumers.

Opec oil ministers have noted that although prices are rising to record nominal levels, inflation and the dollar have softened the impact.

Some analysts say investors have been using oil as a hedge against the weaker dollar.

Flow of funds

Since the US Federal Reserve cut interest rates in mid-August and central banks pumped billions of dollars into financial markets to ease a credit crunch, oil prices have surged close to 40 percent and gold has risen 20 percent.

Investment flows from pension and hedge funds into commodities, including oil, have boomed, as has speculative trading. At the same time, the credit crunch has brought some other markets, notably the US asset-backed commercial paper market, to a virtual standstill.

In the United States, the size of the asset-backed commercial paper market has fallen for 11 consecutive weeks, to $883.7 billion this week from a peak of $1.17 trillion at the end of July, according to data from the Federal Reserve.

In Europe, according to analysts at BNP Paribas, the market shrunk to $192 billion at the end of September from $297 billion at the end of July.

Some of that money has found its way into energy and commodities.

Demand from top consumers

While previous price spikes have been triggered by supply disruptions, demand from top consumers the United States and China is the main driver of the current rally.

Global demand growth has slowed after a surge in 2004 but is still rising, and higher prices have so far had a very limited effect on economic growth.

Analysts say the world is coping well with high nominal prices because, adjusted for exchange rates and inflation, they are lower than during previous price spikes and some economies have become less energy intensive.

Opec supply restraint

The Opec cartel, source of more than a third of the world's oil, started to reduce oil output in late 2006 to stem a fall in prices.

Fewer Opec barrels entering the market helped propel this year's rally and consumer nations led by the International Energy Agency for months urged Opec to pump more oil.

At a meeting in September, Opec agreed to increase oil output by 500,000 barrels per day from Nov. 1.

Few in the group believe there is much they can do to tame a market they say defies logic.

Supply of crude from Nigeria, the world's eighth largest oil exporter, has been cut since February 2006 because of militant attacks on the country's oil industry.

Oil companies have detailed about 547,000 bpd of shut Nigerian production due to militant attacks and sabotage.

Possible disruption in Iran

Oil consumers are concerned about supply disruption from Iran, the world's fourth-biggest exporter, which is locked in a dispute with the West over its nuclear program.

Western governments suspect Iran is using its civilian nuclear program as a cover to develop nuclear weapons. Iran denies this, saying it wants nuclear power to make electricity.

On Oct. 25, Washington accused Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps of spreading weapons of mass destruction and its elite force of supporting terrorism.

Iraq situation

Iraq is struggling to get its oil industry back on its feet after decades of wars, sanctions and low investments.

Exports of Kirkuk crude from the country's north are sporadic as sabotage, and technical problems have mostly idled the pipeline since the US-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003, preventing exports returning to the pre-invasion rate.

Refiners in the United States, the world's top gas guzzler, struggled with unexpected outages which drained inventories ahead of the summer, when motor fuel demand peaks. *Reuters*

Strong peso softens . . .

From page A1

lar, she said.

The peso has appreciated by a hefty 12 percent against the US dollar since the start of the year, making it Asia's second best performing currency next only to the Indian rupee. Early this week, the peso broke into the 43-level which monetary officials attributed to a rise in dollar remittances by overseas Filipino workers and investments by foreign companies.

For this year, the government's economic managers had assumed an exchange rate of P48:$1 in setting an inflation target of 4-5 percent. Due to the rise in the peso, however, inflation has so far been kept below 3 percent.

Asked about the direct impact of world oil prices on the inflation rate, BSP Managing Director Ma. Cyd Tuano-Amador explained that central bank simulations indicated that every P1 increase in local pump, prices could push up the inflation rate by 0.10 to 0.14 percentage points after a 12-month period.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the spike in world oil prices would only have a minimal impact on consumer prices. The strong peso would lower the cost of imports, particularly oil.

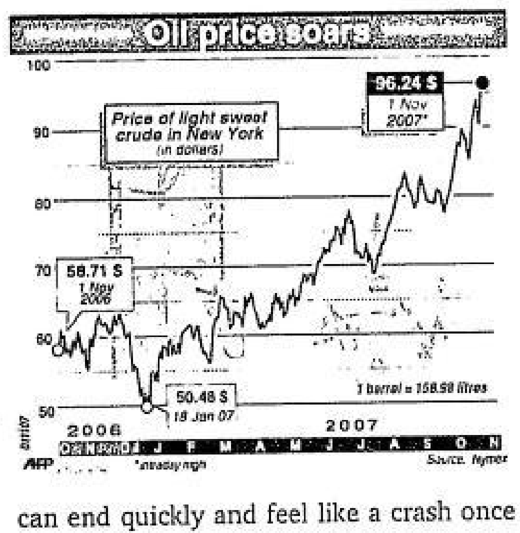
"The effect may be somewhat mitigated by such factors as the stronger peso. The BSP will continue to monitor this so that any second round effect or upward shift in inflation expectation is properly and timely addressed," Tetangco said in a text message to Inquirer.

Victor Abola, an economist from the University of Asia and the Pacific, said inflation was likely to average 3.5 percent in 2008 despite higher crude prices.

$100 per barrel

International traders said worries over tight supplies would continue to support prices. Guy Caruso, administrator of the US Energy Information Administration, warned that if the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries did not produce more oil, markets would be short of barrels in the first quarter 2008. At the same time, traders said strong oil demand in Asia, particularly in China and India, would continue unabated.

"The big question that everyone wants to know is will we see $100 (a) barrel on this run," Phil Flynn, an analyst in Chicago, wrote in a research note. "The strength of this market seems to be gaining momentum, and I have learned a long time ago to respect a raging bull."



"But I also know that these type of runs can end quickly and feel like a crash once the sell-off begins," Flynn wrote.

Tetsu Emori, commodity markets fund manager in Tokyo, said a surge in oil prices to $100 level was highly possible. But he added "that level will not be sustainable because it is simply too expensive."

Difficult to predict

Glenn Yu, chair of the Independent Philippine Petroleum Companies Association, agreed that the strong peso would mitigate the impact of high world crude prices. Even so, Yu said it was difficult to predict the price of gasoline, diesel and other fuel products by Christmas.

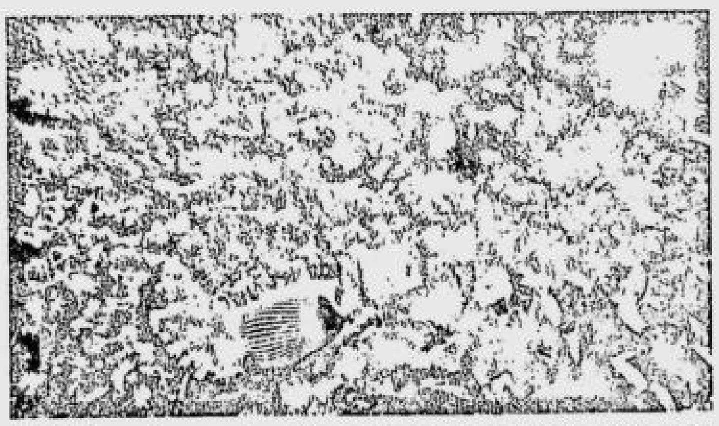
Oil companies the other day raised prices of liquefied petroleum gas by P1.68 a kilogram, inclusive of the 12-percent value-added tax, as the international contract price of the product rose to a historic high this month. This brought the price of an 11-kilogram LPG cylinder to between P517.40 and P569.91.

Malacañang said high oil prices should spur the public to join hands in conserving energy and helping in the development of alternative energy sources instead of engaging in destructive politics.

"This serves as a wake-up call to all sectors that there are more things to attend to other than relentless politics of personal destruction," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

Nonetheless, the militant group Pamalakaya called on the government to impose price controls on petroleum products, repeal the Oil Deregulation Law and proceed with the nationalization of the oil industry.

Pamalakaya said oil companies were raking huge profits with their successive increase in fuel prices. *With reports by Christine O. Avendaño, Ronnel W. Domingo, Abigail L. Ho, Jerome Aning, AP and Reuters*



A SOFT coral covered reef found at a famous divesite called the Canyons at the Verde Island passage. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

New coral species found off Kalayaan

By TJ Burgonio

NEW CORAL SPECIES HAVE been found in the waters off the Kalayaan group of islands, and Batangas despite a much diminished coral cover, according to a University of the Philippines marine biologist.

Edgardo Gomez, professor emeritus of the UP Marine Science Institute (MSI), said the new specie Leptoseris kalayaanensis was found in the waters off Kalayaan islands in Spratlys a couple of months ago.

He added that there were 36 coral species per square meter in Talim Bay, Batangas, which he said could be "new species or new records."

"Believe it or not, we have some nice corals left in the Philippines," Gomez said in a recent forum at the UP campus. "Many species are waiting to be discovered."

Gomez presented a paper written by Prof. Wilfredo Licuanan on Philippine reefs during a forum on the Coral Reef Targeted Research and Capacity Building for Management Program, and based his disclosures on this.

Six countries, including the Philippines, contain over half of the world's reefs. Together with Indonesia, the Philippines has a high diversity of coral reefs.

Only 4 to 5 percent of the 27,000 sq km of the country's coral reefs are in excellent condition, studies show.

"Many of our reefs are under threat. Look at the entire region. In the '80s, we had some reefs that had high cover. Twenty years later, there's less cover," Gomez said.

In Visayas, for instance, more than half of the reefs are in poor state, according to him. "This is alarming. We hope degradation would stop," he said.

6 metric tons of illegal drugs still kept in PDEA labs – COA

By Jocelyn R. Uy

OWING TO THE SNAIL-PACED disposition of drug-related cases in trial courts, some six metric tons of illegal drugs are still being kept in laboratories of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) contrary to the law, according to the Commission on Audit.

Based on its 2006 audit report on PDEA, its laboratory service still has in its custody 6,107,447.98 grams (or 6.107 metric tons) and 62,193 pieces of dangerous drugs it has confiscated last year.

The amount does not include yet those being kept in the agency's regional units, the Philippine National Police forensic laboratories nationwide, the National Bureau of Investigation and the courts.

The COA reiterated that under Republic Act 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, confiscated illegal drugs must be destroyed by PDEA within 24 hours after the court has conducted an inspection of the substances.

Largest quantity

An inventory of these illegal drugs which have yet to be burned or destroyed disclosed that ephedrine, a main component in the manufacture of shabu and commonly laced in "fat-burner" pills, has the largest quantity intact with 4.073 metric tons.

The agency has yet to destroy 1.5 metric tons of pseudoephedrine, a banned stimulant being used as raw material for shabu; 457,883.74 grams of the actual shabu or methamphetamine hydrochloride; 75,894.24 grams of marijuana; 61,907 vials of ketamine and 286 tablets of ecstasy.

"A cursory review of court orders and certificates of drug destruction reports showed that it takes several months or years after a criminal case has been filed with the court before confiscated dangerous drugs were either inspected or destroyed," noted the audit report.

No adequate equipment

The report also noted that PDEA has no adequate laboratory equipment, storage facilities and personnel to process, store and secure confiscated drugs that a total of 3.11 metric tons of illegal drugs and 3,897 pieces of other drugs were stored in police storerooms and laboratory facilities.

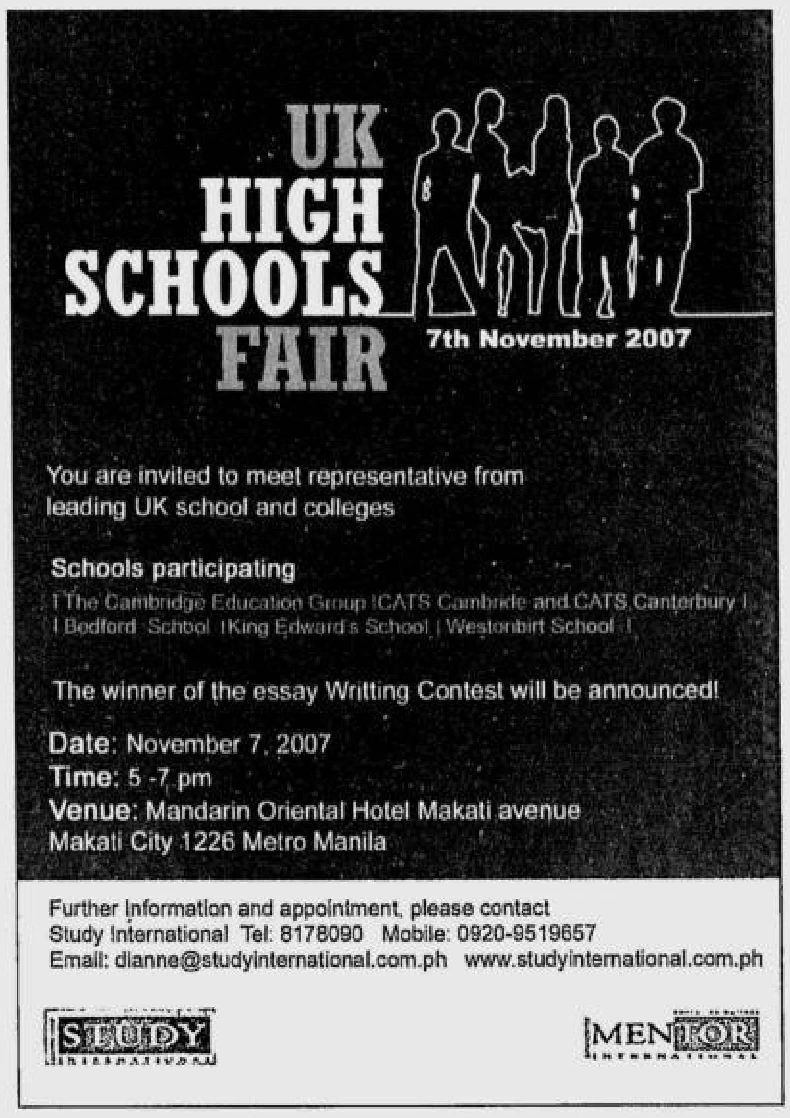
This is against the law, said the COA, as the agency has been mandated to take charge and have custody of all dangerous drugs and to establish a forensic laboratory in each police office.

Meanwhile, the PDEA disclosed that various alternative courses of actions were being undertaken to remedy the problem.

The agency said it has appointed monitors and liaison officers to closely monitor the status of drug-related cases filed in courts across the country.

To speed up the turnover of cases to trial courts, the agency has also conducted meetings with prosecution and the judiciary group.

It also informed COA that a destruction of about 4.5 metric tons of the illegal drugs it confiscated last year was scheduled last February 2007 at the Integrated Waste Management Inc. Facility in Cavite City.



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STUDY INTERNATIONAL
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Icophil issues call for research papers

THE SECRETARIAT OF THE 8TH International Conference on Philippine Studies (Icophil) is reminding interested participants to submit their proposals not later than Nov. 15.

The conference, with the theme "Philippine Studies for the 21st Century: New Meanings, Critiques and Trajectories," is scheduled on July 23-26, 2008, at the Philippine Social Science Center, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City.

It aims to provide a forum for scholars engaged in research on the general field of Philippine studies, including developments and discourses that examine Philippine realities in a global era.

Since 1989, the Icophil Conference Series has been held every four years at an international hosting institution.

The 2008 Icophil is hosted by the Philippine Studies Association (PSA), established in 1984, in conjunction with the International Philippine Studies Conferences Board based at the University of Hawaii's Center for Philippine Studies, chaired by Belinda A. Aquino.

Suggested topics for proposals/panels include: theories and dimensions of analysis in Philippine studies; changing Philippine institutions, ideologies, practices and technologies; problematizing the nation and the state; globalization; histories, cultures, identities; archaeology and heritage studies; colonial discourse and postcolonial studies; the Philippine Diaspora; gender and sexuality; human and ecosystem well-being; education in the 21st century; population studies; Philippine media; and F/Pilipinolohiya.

Proposals should be submitted to the 8th Icophil Secretariat at the Philippine Social Science Council by e-mail (icophil@pssc.org.ph) or fax (632-924-4178 or 632-922-9621). For details, visit www.pssc.org.ph/icophil, call Karen Barrios (632) 929-2671 or Joanne Agbisit (632) 456-1930, or e-mail PSA president Bernardita R. Churchill at nitachurchill@hotmail.com.

Clash kills 2 Islamic militants

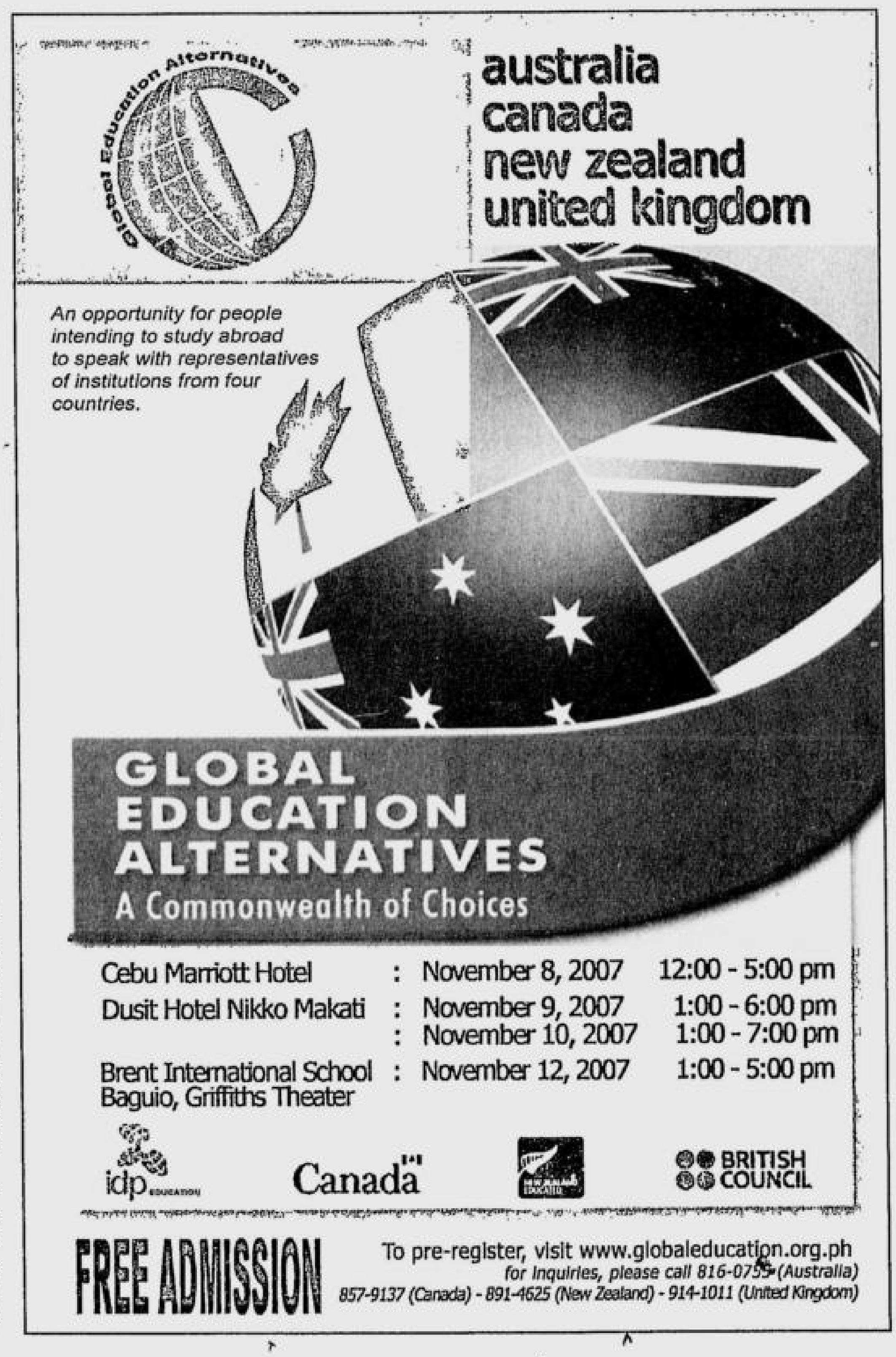
TWO MORE ISLAMic militants were found dead in the southern Philippines following a clash with government forces, an official said Friday.

This brings to three the number of members of the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf killed in the battle with Army special forces in the island of Basilan late Wednesday.

The bodies of the two rebels were found by troops searching the area on Thursday, said Brig. Gen. Arturo Ortiz. One Abu Sayyaf member had earlier been confirmed slain in the incident.

The Abu Sayyaf is a small gang of Islamic militants blamed for the worst terrorist attacks in the Philippines, including firebombing a ferry on Manila Bay that killed more than 100 in 2004.

Intelligence agencies have linked the group to the al-Qaida network of terror mastermind Osama bin Laden. *AFP*



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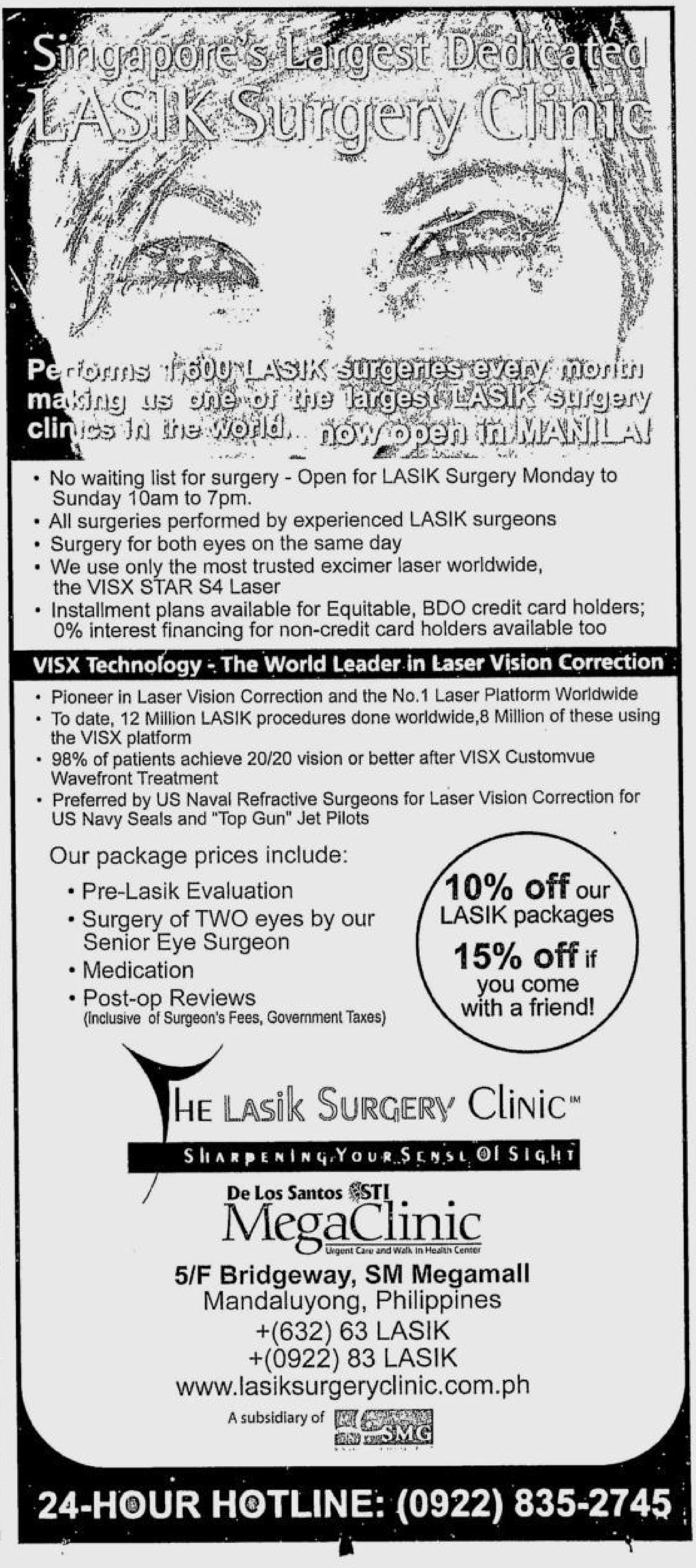

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Palace backs gas theory

From page A1

nay had been asking that the PNP final report and other reports be made public.

Binay, as well as the scientists group Agham, had also called for an independent investigation of the explosion.

Equipment recovery

Authorities yesterday sifted through the wreckage in the Glorietta 2 basement for the remaining pieces of the puzzle.

They recovered pieces of electrical equipment, including circuit breakers and a pump motor, which could confirm the PNP findings.

But the submersible pump itself—described as "material" to the police analysis of how the gases had ignited—remained at the site as of late yesterday afternoon, said Director Geary Barias, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO).

It may take as long as three days before all the equipment and debris relevant to the probe are retrieved, Barias told reporters by phone.

As of yesterday, members of the Multi-Agency Investigative Task Force looking into the explosion had recovered four circuit breakers, he said.

Also recovered was a "centrifugal pump motor for water distribution and for switch boards," said Supt. Gilbert Cruz, the Makati chief of police.

Cruz declined requests for an explanation of the equipment, or its significance.

Barias, however, made clear that the equipment was not the submersible pump that the task force had set out to recover.

Earlier, he had said the submersible pump located in the basement might have had something to do with the buildup of methane gas that was believed to have caused the blast.

Making findings official

Ermita reiterated on Thursday that the PNP had investigated the explosion with the help of foreign experts: "This was done with the help of the Australian Federal Police, the Israeli bomb experts, and even the US Federal Bureau of Investigation."

He said PNP Director General Avelino Razon would soon hold a news conference to "make official the findings of these experts."

"[This is] for the Filipino people to understand how [investigators] came about with such a finding," he added.

Chief Supt. Luizo Ticman, head of the Multi-Agency Investigative Task Force, yesterday said the PNP was now studying laws on negligence in preparation for the filing of charges against those responsible for the explosion.

He said police were also studying building codes to see if the mall administrators or tenants had violated any of these regulations.

"We are studying all applicable laws pertinent to this incident," Ticman said.

WORKERS retrieve the submersible pump from the Glorietta 2 blast site which could yield clues to what sparked the explosion on Oct. 19. EDWIN BACASMAS

Anthony
de Leon

IN MEMORIAM

Prayers, candles and flowers are offered for the victims of the Glorietta 2 blast in the makeshift prayer room at ground zero. EDWIN BACASMAS

The NCRPO's Barias said police investigators were also brushing up on the law on "obligations and contracts" and "torts" for the filing of the charges.

Barias had earlier said police were studying the contract between ALI and the Makati Supermarket, a supposed tenant at the Glorietta 2 basement.

He said police were looking into the possible culpability of other government agencies and regulatory bodies in the blast.

Starting in the morning

Members of the Multi-Agency Investigative Task Force led by Supt. Fennimore Jaudian entered the Glorietta 2 basement at 10 a.m. yesterday and began to recover pieces of electrical equipment that were brought outside for examination.

Jaudian refused to be interviewed.

Barias said the process was taking longer than anticipated because field men were needed to fix chains on the beams and ceiling of the basement to ensure stability amid fears that the first floor could collapse at any time.

"They have very limited movement," he told reporters, adding that the area remained dark.

Police said that a week before the explosion, a pump of the sewage system in the Glorietta 2 basement had malfunctioned, causing flooding.

They said that a day before the explosion, maintenance personnel tried to use a submersible pump to siphon off sewage water from the area.

By this time, police theorized, the area had been flooded with methane gas. They said a spark from the submersible pump, other motor pumps and automatic switches in the basement could have ignited the accumulated methane and caused the explosion.

Barias said the delay in the recovery of the pump was not the fault of ALI.

"The delay is more for safety reasons. We want to make sure the area is structurally safe," he said.

2 percent of revenues

Based on 2006 data, Glorietta 2 accounts for roughly 2 percent, or P123 million, of total full-year revenues of the Glorietta complex.

The damage to Glorietta 2 has affected some 100 tenants, representing 10 percent of the total 1,000 tenants in the shopping complex.

ALI's mall operations—consisting of Glorietta, Greenbelt and other Ayala-owned shopping malls—account for 17 percent of the property firm's total annual revenues. *With a report from Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson*

Anticrime group offers to help victims' kin

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE VOLUNTEERS AGAINST Crime and Corruption (VACC) is offering assistance to the families of the 11 people killed in the Oct. 19 explosion at the Glorietta 2 mall in Makati City.

Dante Jimenez, founding chair of the crime-watch organization, spoke with the INQUIRER after reading a report in yesterday's issue on the desire of the bereaved families to meet one another, share experiences, and possibly decide on future action.

"The VACC is willing to offer its moral support and legal services to the victims' families," Jimenez said in a phone interview. "We will organize them and offer our volunteer lawyers so that *wala na sila iintindihin* (they don't have to worry about anything)."

He said the group would offer the same support and service that it had extended to the victims of the 1996 fire at the Ozone disco in Quezon City and the 2006 stampede at the PhilSports arena in Pasig City.

Jimenez said he was touched by the families' wish to reach out to one another as a means of coping with their loss.

"I understand that they are still [in] shock, and that a sense of normalcy has not yet been restored in their lives," he said, adding:

"What is important is that if they decide to file a complaint against anyone, we will be able to give their complaint proper direction and we will see it through."

Doing a Garci, Lintang Bedol vanishes without trace in Cotabato

From page A1

there," Kasuyo said.

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) ordered the arrest of Bedol on Oct. 23 after rejecting his appeal to reverse a previous Comelec verdict finding him guilty of indirect contempt and sentencing him to up to six months in jail.

The Comelec set Bedol free in August on a P15,000 bail while his case was on appeal.

The contempt case arose from Bedol's failure to heed Comelec summons to appear during hearings on missing election documents deemed to be decisive in determining the results of the senatorial races in the May 13 polls.

Wife's story

Kasuyo said that according to Bedol's wife, the poll executive reported to his office in Shariff Aguak on Oct. 19—the same day Maguindanao officials said they had not seen him since May.

Based on the wife's account, Bedol returned home after reporting for work that day, Kasuyo said.

"But the following day, she said that he left again with a group of men in military uniform. Since then, he has been missing and she already lost contact with him," he said.

Kasuyo said Kadigia told him she did not know where her husband had gone.

"She said she is worried now because he never did that [before]. Usually, he tells her of his whereabouts," Kasuyo said.

Search party

Kasuyo said he asked Kadigia to convince her husband to surrender before things turn from bad to worst.

Goltiao said he had formed a task force composed of his region's intelligence group, the Regional Mobile Group (RMG) and the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) to look for Bedol.

Around 50 men compose the hunting party, he said.

Now officially a fugitive

But Goltiao also offered a theory that Bedol was no longer in the ARMM.

"If he is here [in ARMM], we would have found him already," he said.

But Goltiao believes Bedol is still in the country.

"His bail does not have any effect anymore. He is now in violation of various laws, a fugitive from the law," acting Comelec Chair Resurreccion Borra said yesterday.

The Comelec ordered Bedol's arrest after the Supreme Court rejected his petition for a temporary restraining order against the poll body's order to jail him.

Borra did not say what specific action the Comelec would take now that Bedol seemed to have evaded arrest.

He said the poll body would wait for the official report from

BEDOL

Goltiao.

De Lima's doubts

"We'll need to discuss the matter en banc and decide collegially on the matter. This is a law enforcement issue now and I don't want to preempt the decision of the Comelec en banc," Borra said.

Election lawyer Leila de Lima expressed doubts that the ARMM police were having a hard time tracking down Bedol in Maguindanao, given the police resources in the region.

"I don't buy that. If the police are unable to find him then he must be under the protective custody of his political patrons in Maguindanao," De Lima said.

De Lima said that this had been the same old story used ever since Bedol was summoned by the Comelec to explain the loss of important election documents in Maguindanao during the May polls.

Name on tape

The police then claimed that Bedol could not be located and yet he was seen at the provincial capitol by many witnesses, including her, De Lima said.

"Why can't they enforce the warrant of arrest? They can very well locate him if they exert their best effort to do so," said De Lima.

Controversy had dogged Bedol at some stages of his career as a Comelec officer for more than a decade.

His name also cropped up in the supposed wiretapped conversations between President Macapagal-Arroyo and retired Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano dealing with alleged rigging of the results of the 2004 presidential election.

On that tape, a woman who sounded like Ms Arroyo was heard expressing concern that she was losing in Cotabato.

The man who sounded like Garcillano replied: "I have already talked with Attorney Bedol."

The trio—Ms Arroyo, Garcillano and Bedol—denied committing any fraud.

Garcillano disappeared for five months in 2005 after the "Hello Garci" scandal burst into the front pages. When he reappeared near Cotabato City, Garcillano said threats on his life forced him to disappear.

Now, it's little Nena seeking protection of amparo

From page A1

logical and emotional scars inflicted by them even in adulthood," he said.

The KMP expressed hope that cases of abductions and killings of leftist activists would be stopped with the Supreme Court's issuance of writs of amparo (the Spanish word for "protection").

The rules governing the writ took effect late last month. Since then, the Supreme Court has issued such writs in response to petitions filed by an urban poor leader, the mothers of two missing students of the University of the Philippines, and two farmer-brothers.

The writ of amparo requires the state to protect a person whose rights to life, liberty and security are threatened. Respondents are not allowed to simply deny the accusations made against them, and are obliged to take action to solve the problem.

78th IB

In a statement, KMP-Cebu chair Nick Abasolo said he, along with Nena's aunt Liza Baldespiñosa and human rights lawyer Poch Cinco, was able to retrieve the girl from the headquarters of the Army's 78th Infantry Battalion.

"But she was heavily traumatized and shows signs of brainwashing. We are now helping her and her family to cope with this situation and to hold accountable those responsible," Abasolo said.

According to the peasant leader, the soldiers subjected the girl to intense questioning for several days.

"A child should never have undergone such an ordeal. But the military is indiscriminate on who they will terrorize next. It does not matter if it is a child, a woman, the elderly; even the mentally incapacitated suffer in their hands," he said.

'Show her to us'

Per Abasolo's account, Nena was on her way home from classes at the Mag-alwa Elementary School in Tuburan, Cebu, on Oct. 16 when she was picked up by the soldiers and brought to their detachment in Barangay Gaang.

Meanwhile, the lack of witnesses is hindering an elderly couple, whose 33-year-old daughter was purportedly abducted by Army soldiers on May 11, from seeking a writ of amparo.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Roberto and Cristeta Fernandez of Mandaluyong City appealed to the government, particularly the military, and the public to help locate their daughter Juliet.

"Please show her to us so that we may know what has happened to her, so that we won't be worried," Roberto said.

Juliet Fernandez and her partner Manuel Pajarito, both activists, were reportedly abducted by Army soldiers in Sitio Caman-ilao, Barangay Nabong, Pinabacdao, Samar.

Roberto and Cristeta are unable to petition for a writ of amparo because witnesses to the abduction are afraid to testify. Witnesses' affidavits are needed in the application for the issuance of the writ.

A third activist abducted, identified only as Jepoy, managed to escape and told the rights group Karapatan-Eastern Visayas that the three of them were detained and tortured at the camp of the Army's 62nd Infantry Battalion.

But before he could submit a sworn statement, Jepoy again disappeared and cannot be located, according to the militant women's group Gabriela, which is assisting the Fernandez couple.

Quoting Jepoy, Gabriela said he, Juliet and Pajarito were detained in separate but adjacent quarters, and were interrogated and tortured by turns for eight days.

Jepoy said he was hung by his bound hands for two days and denied food and water.

Doubled worries

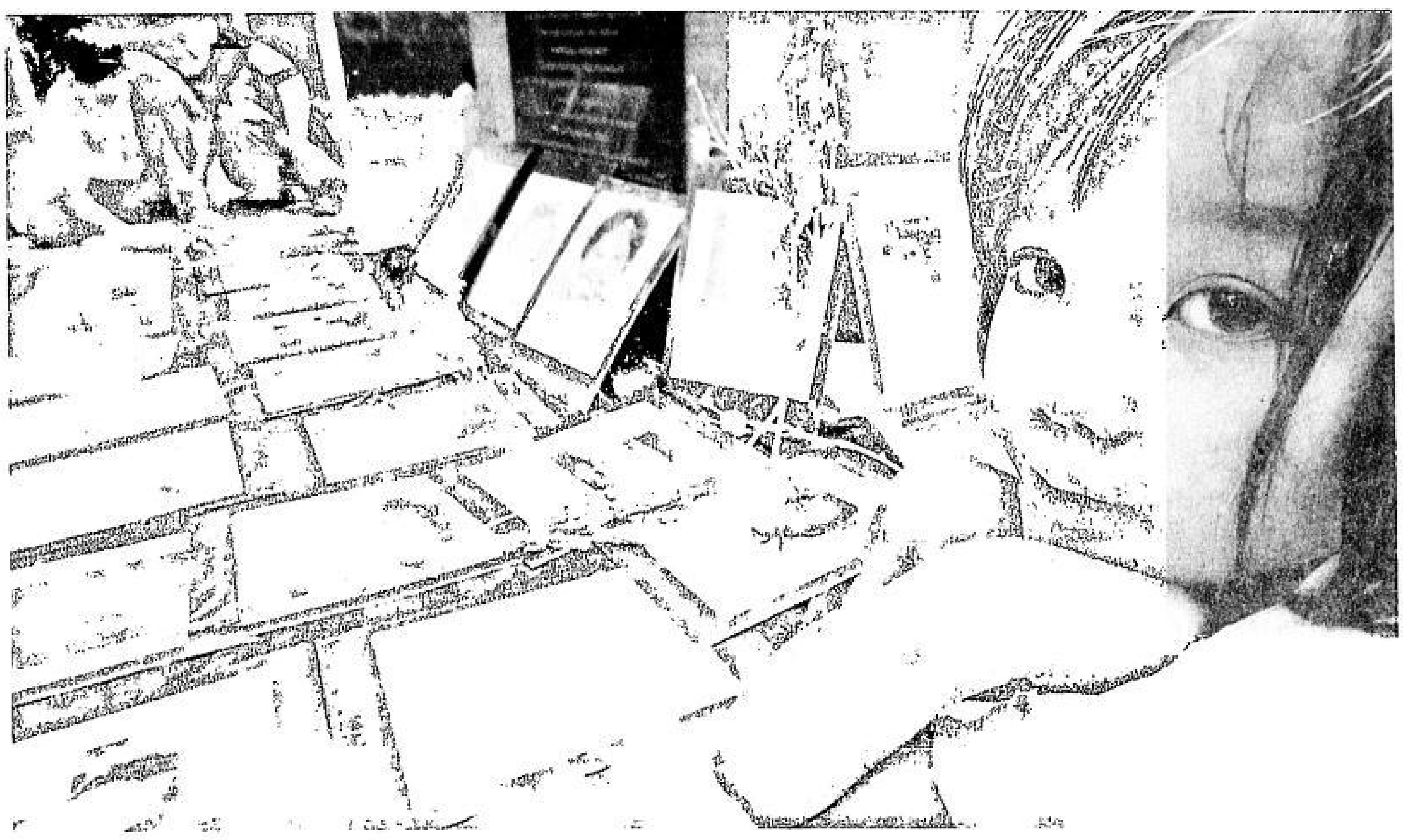
Roberto and Cristeta Fernandez said their worries about their daughter had doubled because on Oct. 24, five days after they gave a radio interview, somebody who sounded like Juliet called on the cell phone.

Recounted Roberto, 63: "'*Inay? Si Inay* (Mother? Where's Mother)?' the caller said. I replied, '*Sino 'to* (Who's this)?' Then the caller insisted, '*Si Nanay?*' before she was cut off.

"It sounded very much like her, and she sounded very frightened. She couldn't hear me well."

Roberto said his daughter had been involved in social work and political activism since she was a journalism and sociology student at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines in Manila.

He said Juliet became a member of the College Editors Guild of the Philippines, secretary general of Gabriela-Youth, and organizer of the Amihan National Federation of Peasant Women.



NO TOMBS, JUST PHOTOS

Relatives light candles and offer flowers at a monument dedicated to desaparecidos inside the Baclaran Church compound in Parañaque City on Friday. Four-year-old Erica Gacus and her family pay their respects to her grandfather, Uldarico Manog Sr., who was last seen in 1984. He had been suspected to be a supporter of communist rebels.

REM ZAMORA

Advance greeting

"That's the path she has chosen. We all knew the danger she was getting into. We could not dissuade her, but we support her work among the poor," the father said.

Cristeta, a street sweeper, said that while she had a "strong feeling" that Juliet was alive, she was concerned that her daughter was being physically harmed.

The mother also disclosed that Juliet had earlier said she might be pregnant.

"In her last text to me, she sent an advance Mother's Day greeting," recalled Cristeta. Mother's Day was celebrated on May 13, two days after the purported abduction.

Roberto said that if his daughter had done something wrong, she should be brought to court and charged accordingly: "If she is guilty of something, let justice be served on her for whatever wrong she has done. Not like this, that she has to disappear."

Karapatan and Gabriela conducted a fact-finding mission in June to look into the circumstances of the abduction and to look for Juliet and Pajarito in a number of the military camps in Samar.

According to the two groups, the fact-finding team was able to speak with an officer of the 62nd Infantry Battalion, but the latter could not give a certification that the two were in military custody.

In Pinabacdao, the team was told by a couple how soldiers had berated them for briefly housing and feeding Juliet and Pajarito. The soldiers claimed that the two were NPA members.

Children also told the team that they saw a military vehicle traversing the highway with Juliet and Pajarito inside.

'Enemies of the state'

Militant groups say the forced disappearances of leftist activists have been orchestrated by a government that views them as "enemies of the state."

In December 2006, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

The convention states that the widespread or systematic practice of forced disappearance constitutes a crime against humanity, and that the victims' families have the right to seek reparations and to demand the truth about their missing loved ones.

Only 14 states, the Philippines not included, have so far ratified the convention—six short of the 20 needed to enforce it.

S. Korea fake degree . . .

From page A1

Eight others waiting to be commissioned as officers were also found to have forged degrees from the same university, he said.

"Their commissions have been cancelled. They have been ordered to complete obligatory military service as enlisted soldiers," he said.

South Korea recruits hundreds of college graduates as officers each year in addition to military academy graduates.

Yonhap news agency said investigators flew to the Philippines on a tip-off in August that the officers had stayed in the country to secure forged college degrees through a broker.

The scandal erupted in early July when government prosecutors investigated Dongkuk University professor Shin Jeong-Ah for fabricating a Yale doctorate.

Celebrities involved, too

Shin, 35, was arrested last month with her alleged lover, Byeon Yang-Kyoon, a former top policymaker. He was charged with influence-peddling by allegedly abusing his position to help Shin further her career.

President Roh Moo-Hyon dismissed Byeon and expressed embarrassment over the scandal, which prompted a probe into the academic backgrounds of thousands of professors and civil servants.

In recent months dozens of celebrities from the cultural, entertainment and religious worlds have either confessed to faking their academic records or were found out.

Education experts say the tendency to emphasize paper qualifications rather than ability, combined with loose verification systems, tempts some Koreans to forge academic backgrounds.

'Recto University'

The AFP report did not name the Philippine university whose degrees supposedly were faked.

Philippine authorities have long vowed to stamp out the racket of faking school records and diplomas. The illegal operation has thrived along Recto Avenue in Manila, patronized mostly by jobseekers, including those looking for work overseas.

Last year, the National Printing Office proposed specialized protective measures—involving use of shifting multi-color ink technology, water mark and bar coding—to eliminate all fake diplomas, transcripts, certificates and professional licenses.

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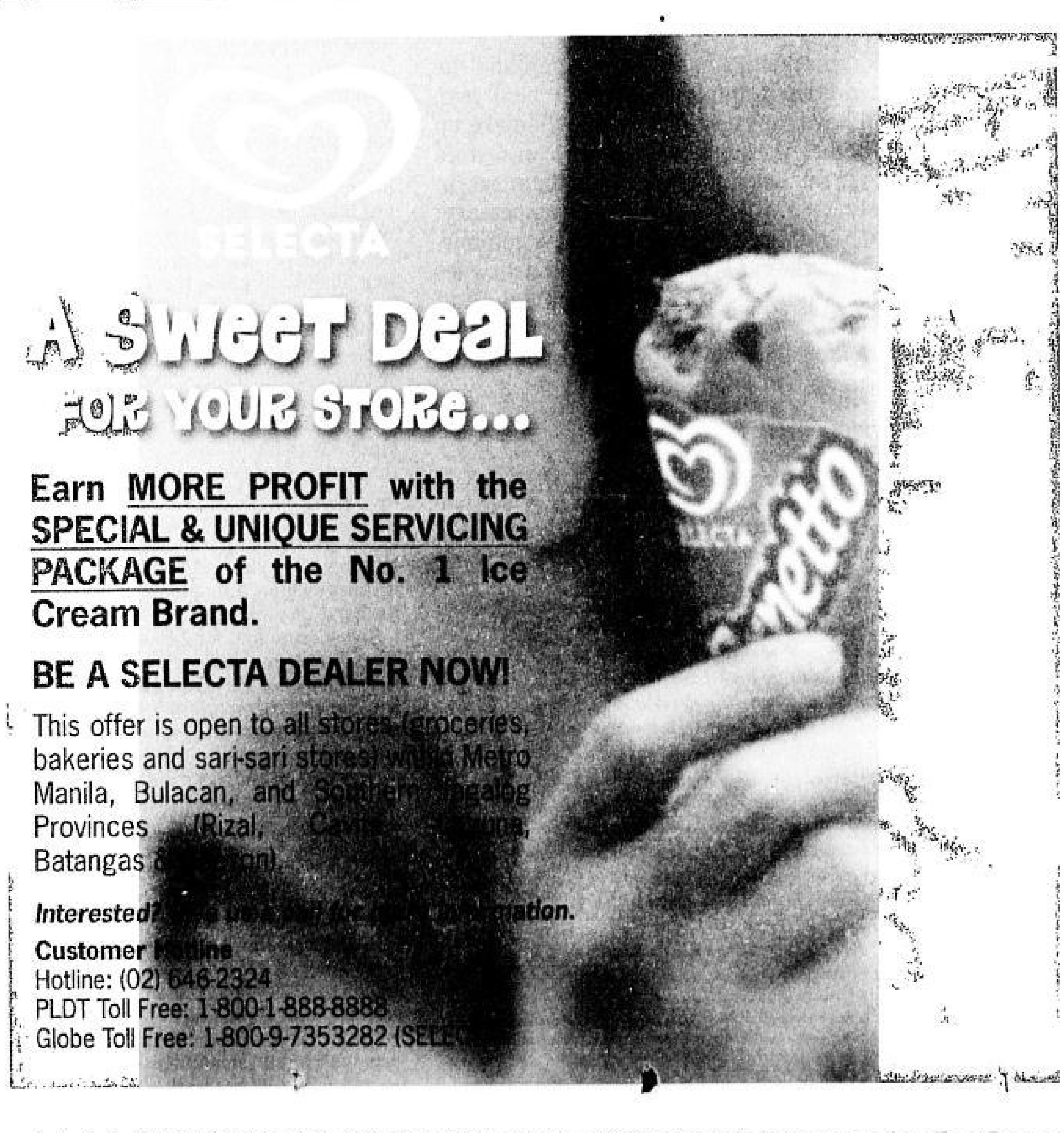

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Surprise selection

EDITORIAL

SOMETHING FUNNY HAPPENED AS MALACAÑANG hurried to fill up the vacancy created by the retirement of Election Commissioner Mehol Sadain. Last Oct. 19, the Office of the President sent to the Commission on Elections a list of nominees and asked the incumbent commissioners for their comments. The list contained some prominent personalities in law and politics, including at least two lawyer-friends and politicians closely identified with the opposition or, more precisely, the recently convicted and pardoned former president, Joseph Estrada. The request for comment was apparently just a formality and the list itself turned out to be a trial balloon. Before the commissioners could sit down to discuss the matter and just as a public debate was getting started as to the relative merits of appointing this nominee or that, Malacañang announced its choice. It was none of the above.

The surprise pick was Iligan City Regional Trial Court Judge Moslemen Macarambon. A resumé furnished by Malacañang showed that Macarambon has served as RTC judge for 18 years and has logged some 30 years in the government service, including a brief stint as an executive assistant in the Senate Electoral Tribunal. He has a master's degree in law and has taught law at the Mindanao State University. And he won an award as One of the Ten Outstanding RTC Judges of 1997 from the Philippine Trial Lawyers Association.

Former Rep. Benasing Macarambon of Lanao del Sur, who is not related to the judge, describes him as "a non-politician and basically a good and just man" who enjoys an "unblemished reputation." Adel Tamano, spokesman of the Genuine Opposition in the last elections, says Macarambon is "a competent lawyer, a fair judge, a good family man and a decent person." And the nominee himself cites his "vast experience as a judge handling election cases" as a big factor in his favor.

It would seem that while his name may not be as well-known as those on the Malacañang list, Macarambon has what it takes to do the job as far as education, experience and qualifications go. Besides, having a Muslim as replacement for another Muslim in the electoral body would help showcase equal opportunity for the minority in the public service. But there is a fly in the ointment—and a very poisonous one, if Sen. Panfilo Lacson is right. Macarambon, according to the opposition senator, is "a known protégé and operator" of Virgilio Garcillano, the former election commissioner at the center of the scandal involving the alleged rigging of the results of the 2004 elections in favor of President Macapagal-Arroyo. And it was Garcillano who nominated him for the Comelec post, Lacson said, citing two "sources."

Both Macarambon and Garcillano have denied this, with the former saying he knew Garcillano, but Garcillano might not know him, and Garcillano saying they barely knew each other. Lacson, however, is sticking to his claim and vows to block Macarambon's confirmation in the Commission on Appointments.

Lacson could, of course, be wrong, but Malacañang didn't help reassure anyone about Macarambon or the purity of its intention by sneaking his nomination after floating the names of other more prominent personalities. And if Lacson can prove his claim, it would mean that the Arroyo administration is throwing away a golden opportunity to reform the electoral body and repair its tattered reputation after the computerization scam, the "Hello Garci" scandal and the meddling of its former chairman, Benjamin Abalos, in the national broadband project.

With Sadain's retirement, Abalos' resignation and the retirement of two other commissioners early next year, the Comelec will have four new faces who will make up the majority. Whether the new commission can restore the people's faith in our electoral system and their trust in the electoral body itself will depend on the competence, the independence and the integrity of the new commissioners. Malacañang should bear this in mind as it goes through the process of selecting its appointees. And Congress, through the Commission on Appointments, should make sure the Palace abides by this responsibility, starting with Macarambon's nomination.

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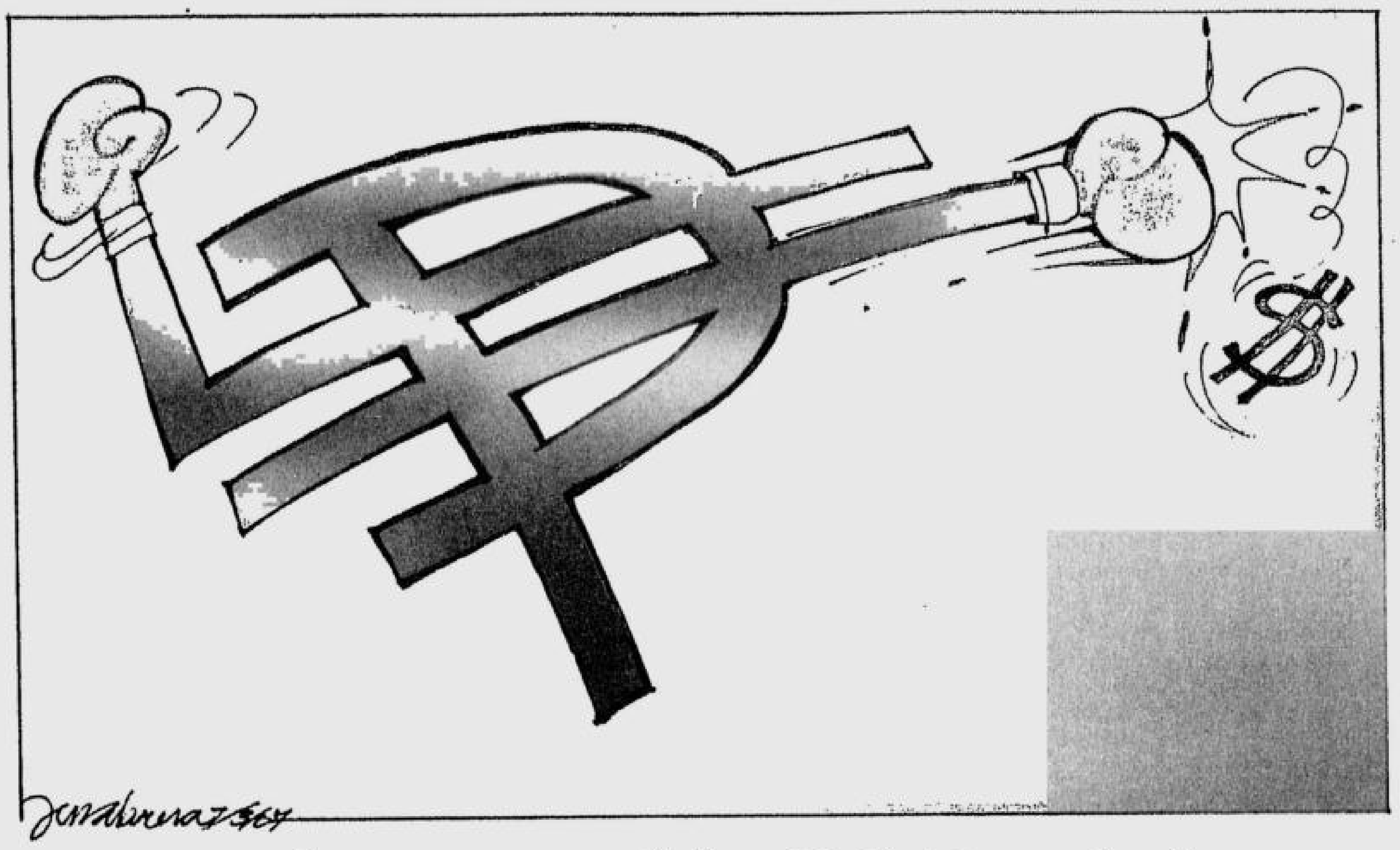


Making sense of the GMA-Erap deal

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

THE BASIC TASK OF SOCIAL ANALYSIS IS TO interpret what is happening to a society, not to agree or disagree with the actions taken by people. Only if we keep this distinction in mind is it possible to observe ourselves as a people, and to see the various ways by which we judge events.

Let us take as a case in point President Macapagal-Arroyo's grant of pardon to Joseph "Erap" Estrada soon after his conviction by the Sandiganbayan court. Critics say this is a reversal of the judicial process, a mockery of the law. It does look like that. But from an institutional perspective, we cannot complain too much. Conviction is juridical, whereas pardon is political. The right to pardon is a residue of the majesty of the sovereign, in our case the president representing the people, and so it is, as legal scholars have noted, typically not qualified by many legal restrictions. To the same class of powers belongs the prerogative to issue amnesty.

It would be a different matter if the Sandiganbayan justices had anchored their decision on what was deemed politically prudent. That would surely have burned the legal system. To all intents and purposes, the Sandiganbayan acted as an autonomous body. Its judgment became final when, on his behalf, Erap's lawyers suddenly withdrew the motion for reconsideration that they had previously filed. The withdrawal, effectively an acceptance of the decision, completes the legal process. It made the conviction of the ex-president final. That is not an insignificant achievement for a legal system that has been perennially under pressure from different political forces on this case.

The grant of pardon after conviction is a political act. As such, it falls under the norm of legitimacy, rather than of legality. Accordingly, the relevant question is not so much whether the Erap pardon satisfies the law, but whether it satisfies the public. Are people willing to be bound by this presidential action? The venue for airing such question is not a court of law but the court of public opinion. Even as it is obvious that the grant of pardon was driven by political expediency rather than by mercy, it does not diminish the value of the Sandiganbayan decision.

What is important in the long term is the conscientiousness with which our society applies the distinction between law and politics. On it rests our ability to handle more complex and troublesome situations in the future. Parallel developments are taking place in other spheres of our national life. Our economy is demonstrating a remarkable autonomy that accounts for its steadiness in the face of political crises. Our justice system is trying painfully to become self-directing in its own sphere, despite the overt politicization of its prosecutorial agencies. It is our political system that has seemed unable to insulate itself from the effects of inherited inequalities, and to keep its operations from spilling into other institutions.

It is in the context of this reality, in the huge disparities between social classes, that we may locate the logic of Ms Arroyo's grant of absolute pardon to Erap. It is definitely a clever political move. She stands to gain more from it than the convict she has pardoned. She may indeed lose whatever remaining support she still enjoys among the Edsa II middle classes, but that is a small price to pay for throwing the opposition in disarray and defanging its most militant segment—the mass followers of Erap. More than this, the pardon is clearly aimed at buying herself protection in a future government where Erap will likely still command influence.

The reality is that despite his detention and conviction, Erap is far from being a spent political force. GMA knows this. In detention, the ex-president could continue to sponsor destabilization efforts against her. Pardoned, he could be persuaded not to lend his name to any attempt to oust her.

This is political realism in a society where roughly 60 percent of the population remains under the spell of traditional political patrons and mass media celebrities. GMA will pass into political oblivion after 2010, but not Erap. He will be a force to reckon with, a figure to court for those with presidential ambitions, so long as the majority of our voters are rendered politically vulnerable by extreme poverty.

Realizing its marginal role in Philippine elections, the middle class, the harbinger of modernity, has favored non-electoral modes for effecting transitions—people power, impeachment, coups, calls for resignation, etc. It is this class that gave the country its two women presidents: Cory Aquino and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, both of them the beneficiaries of people power.

But people power is caught in a paradox, which limits its potency. Its spontaneous and unorganized character, driven by a strong moralism, is the source of its vitality. It is also its fundamental weakness. Middle class activism seldom leads to anything sustainable, like the formation of mainstream political parties. Even when, to its own surprise, it scores electoral victories, as in the case of Fr. Ed Panlilio's successful run for Pampanga governor, the engagement tends to stop at the polls. Without a party on which to anchor itself, the middle class espousal of modern governance is quickly drowned out by the pragmatics of political patronage. No wonder, in the end, *trapos* like GMA and Erap will always find it easier to deal with one another.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

A look at RP corruption from the US

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

ONE OF THE BENEFITS OF TAKING A TRIP out of the country is that one can view what is going on at home from a different, wider-than-parochial, perspective—notwithstanding the technology that allows for instantaneous access to "breaking news." I don't think the physical distance from home is responsible for this perspective change, as much as the greater awareness of the new environment in which one finds oneself and the tendency to compare what is going on there with what is going on at home. But, of course, one should not discount that physical distance, if only because it tends to mute the media hype and dull the sensation of panic and frustration exacerbated by such hype—resulting in a feeling akin to the absence-makes-the-heart-grow-fonder sensation.

The comparison between the old (Philippine) environment and the new (in my case, the United States) one, I am glad to report, is not at all of the odious variety. In fact, one may even conclude that we aren't as bad off after all as we think we are. If the United States, with its almost 200-year head start as a democracy, is still stumbling around, maybe we are being too harsh on ourselves.

Take corruption, for instance. If the Philippines has its problems with government projects that bypass the bidding process or mangle it beyond recognition—the Cyber Education and NBN projects with China's ZTE are the most recent examples; while the GSIS eCard project with the Aboitiz's Union Bank has been ongoing since 2004—the United States has been dogged, since 2001, by the controversy surrounding the projects awarded to Halliburton and its subsidiaries like Kellog, Brown and Root [KBR]. (The two broke off their 44-year relationship just this year.)

Remember how we gasped at the alleged overpricing of the NBN project—from $130 million to $329 million, or an overprice of 153 percent. Well, don't look now, but the alleged overprice involved in the Halliburton-KBR projects makes that magnitude sound positively picayune—going as high as between 1,500 percent and 2,500 percent, and involving billions of dollars. One whistle-blower is quoted as saying: "One thousand percent is common, and 500 percent is routine. I have never seen a markup less than 100 percent."

The multimillion-peso GSIS eCard project in the Philippines was "won" by the Aboitiz-controlled Union Bank (the Aboitizes are perceived by many to be very close to President Macapagal-Arroyo and the First Gentleman), while the alleged broker of the ZTE project, then Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos, is also alleged to be close to the First Gentleman. That really sucks, doesn't it?

Well, in the United States, there reportedly wasn't even the pretense of a bid where Halliburton was concerned. (This situation has recently changed, but Halliburton remains very much the major contractor of government projects in Iraq.) While the US government official whose name has been mentioned in the same breath as Halliburton is Vice President Dick Cheney, who was the CEO of Halliburton before he ran for vice president with President George W. "Dubya" Bush in 2000, and who awarded giant contracts to Halliburton when he was secretary of defense under President George H.W. Bush.

Let us also note that the whistle-blowers in the Philippine examples given above didn't fare too well: The accusations against Joey de Venecia ranged from the ridiculous (a receding hairline) to the not-sublime-at-all (sour grapes, corruption, lying). It was insinuated (falsely) that the study of economists Noel de Dios and Raul Fabella, which pointed out that the costs of the NBN and Cyber Ed projects far exceeded the benefits, was paid for with PLDT money, in order to kill potential competition. With regard to the GSIS eCard case, the primary whistle-blower, Leonor Boado, an award-winning COA official, has been removed from government corporations and reassigned to local governments; while the whistle-blowers from within the GSIS like Albert Velasco and Mario Molina have been terminated. At the same time, the Office of the Ombudsman seems to be dragging its feet in its investigations.

The whistle-blowers in the United States have not fared any better—actually, they seem to have fared worse. Bunnatine Greenhouse, a career government officer and principal whistle-blower on the Halliburton-KBR contracts, was not only reassigned; she was demoted (and is still fighting it through the courts). Other whistle-blowers found themselves under interrogation (one for 97 days in Iraq), or losing their jobs or contracts. Moreover, the US Department of Justice seems to be dragging its feet too. It has never joined so-called "*qui tam*" actions brought by the whistle-blowers. (*Qui tam* is the Latin abbreviation for "Who sues on behalf of the King as well as for himself," and a successful *qui tam* lawsuit entitles the plaintiff to a reward which is based on the amount that the government recovers from the defendants.)

It must be noted, dear reader, that the *qui tam* statutes in the United States came about during Abraham Lincoln's time, when he was trying to stop profiteering during the reconstruction of the South after the Civil War. More than 140 years later, profiteering from reconstruction (in Iraq this time) is still going on.

Is my story a case of misery loves company? Maybe. In any case, I point to one more similarity between the United States and the Philippines: In Arlington, Va., signboards in front of two houses read on one side: "Impeach Him." On the other side, they read: "Impeach both of them."

It's World Pool time again

SOCIAL CLIMATE

Mahar Mangahas

IT'S TIME TO GO FOR POOL GLORY AGAIN, AS 128 of the finest players on the planet clash in the 2007 Philippines World Pool Championship (WPC) at the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City, from today, Nov. 3, up to Sunday, Nov. 11.

There will be several hours of live telecasts every day, simultaneously on ABS-CBN (Studio 23 at first, and possibly also Channel 2 later) for matches of more interest to locals, and on ESPN for matches aimed at global viewers.

The WPC is the flagship event of the World Pool-Billiards Association (WPA), the international governing body for pool. First staged in 1990, it is now the most prestigious pool tournament in the world, with a prize of $100,000 to the champion.

Under a long-term agreement with WPA, since 1999 the WPC tournament has been managed by the British company Matchroom Sport. In 2006, the WPC came for the first time to the Philippines, which Matchroom calls "the spiritual home of pool." The host-country stager is again Raya Sports, in partnership with the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines (BSCP).

The three great pool powers in the world today are the Philippines, Taiwan and the United States—in that order, in my opinion as a relatively ancient aficionado, salted no doubt by a pinch of national pride.

We have the largest contingent to the 2007 WPC, with 15 players, led by champions Ronato Alcano (2006 in Manila), Alex Pagulayan (2004 in Taipei; 2003 runner-up) and Efren "Bata" Reyes (1999 in Cardiff, Wales). Ten other seeded Filipinos, in alphabetical order, are: Francisco "Django" Bustamante (2002 runner-up), Joven Bustamante, Lee Van Corteza, Antonio Gabica, Ramil Gallego, Antonio Lining, Rodolfo Luat, Jeffrey de Luna (who last week won P1 million in the First Pacquiao 9-ball open), Marlon Manalo, and Dennis Orcullo. Final entrants are Leonardo Andam and Roberto Gomez, who won two of 10 open seats at stake in a pre-WPC qualifying tournament on Oct. 27-31, held at Star Billiards in Quezon City.

Our toughest competitors are the Taiwanese, led by champions Chao Fong-Pang (1993 and 2000) and Wu Chia-ching (2005). Six other seeded players are Yang Ching-shun (consistent winner in the Asian 9-ball circuit), Kuo Po-cheng (2005 runner-up), Chang Pei-wei (2004 runner-up), Chang Jung-ling, Fu Che-wei, and Liu Chun-chuan. The Taiwanese contingent grew to 13, as Chang Yang-mau, Chun Ming-hung, Ko Pin-yi, Lu Hui-Chan, and Wu Yu-lun all won slots in the qualifier.

There are 12 Americans in the 2007 WPC, led by champions Earl Strickland (1990, 1991 and 2002) and Johnny Archer (1992 and 1997). Other seeded Americans are Corey Deuel, Mike Davis, Troy Frank, Jeremy Jones, Rodney Morris, Tony Robles, Robb Saez, John Schmidt, Shane Van Boening (2007 US 9-Ball Open champion; Ronnie Alcano was runner-up), and Charlie Williams.

The next most important top pool country is Germany, which is sending Ralf Souquet (1996 champion, 2006 runner-up), Thorsten Hohmann (2003 champion), Oliver Ortmann (1995 champion), Thomas Engert, and Harald Stolka.

Familiar, friendly faces will be those of Mika Immonen of Finland (2001 champion), and Marcus Chamat of Sweden. Mika and Marcus visit the Philippines often, and even know a little Tagalog. In 2003, Marcus had a movie role as a pool tournament competitor against Fernando Poe Jr. and Bata Reyes in FPJ's final film, "Pakners."

Others who bear watching are Li He-wen of China (2006 semi-finalist), Netherlands' Niels Feijen (who once eliminated Bata Reyes) and Nick van den Berg (played in the Europe vs US Mosconi cup), Ibrahim bin Amir (Malaysia), Tony Drago (Malta), Luong Chi-dung (Vietnam), Imran Majid (England), Fabio Petroni (Italy), and Ricky Yang (Indonesia).

* * *

The complex seeding system for the WPC, based on major tournaments such as the US Open, the Japan Open, the BSCP Philippine Open, and the Asian 9-Ball tour, leaves some slots open for competition in a pre-WPC qualifier tournament. This year, over 150 players vied for 10 non-seeded slots, which eventually went to five Taiwanese, two Filipinos, a Chinese, an Indonesian and a Japanese. (One reason for the deepness of the Taiwanese bench is their well-organized training. Here in the Philippines, schools still look down on billiards as a sport, and have no formal coaches for it.)

Each day for five days, two knockout qualifiers of at least 64 participants were held at Star Billiards, on the same equipment used in the WPC: Brunswick tables, Simonis cloth, Aramith balls. Getting a slot required winning at least six consecutive matches. Those unsuccessful on one day could try again the next day. The level of play was very high—even Chang Hao-ping, 1999 WPC runner-up, was eliminated last Wednesday!

* * *

The 1999 WPC, which Bata Reyes won, was the first to have a live global telecast. Later, for his many triumphs in the American professional billiards circuit, Reyes was elected to the Hall of Fame of the Billiards Congress of America.

Bata Reyes was the sports person admired by most Filipinos in the October 1999 Social Weather Survey—at 33 percent, compared to Luisito Espinosa's 22 percent and Manny Pacquiao's 21 percent.

The October 1999 SWS survey also asked, "What sports are Filipinos good at?" and got these top four answers: basketball 55 percent, boxing 55 percent, billiards 37 percent, and bowling 15 percent. All other sports scored in single digits only.

* * *

Contact SWS: www.sws.org.ph or mahar.mangahas@sws.org.ph.

Local education alliance in 'pintakasi'

COMMENTARY

Butch Hernandez

EASTERN VISAYAS OR REGION 8 HAS CONSISTENTLY dominated the National Achievement Tests for almost as long as these have been administered by the Department of Education.

Just last year, 11 of the top 20 highest scoring schools came from Eastern Visayas. The year before that, Eastern Visayas topped both the grade school and high school NAT.

Region 8's remarkable academic achievement becomes even more striking given the fact that out of the 26,000 or so public elementary schools that took the 2005-2006 National Achievement Test for Grade 6, only a little more than 2,500 schools managed to score 75 percent in all five subject areas (i.e., English, Science, Math, Hekasi and Filipino). By the standards of the Department of Education, that means a little less than 1 percent of all schools that took the test achieved "Mastery Level." Eastern Visayas accounts for 586 of those schools, or roughly 20 percent of all "Mastery Level" schools.

To put Region 8's achievement in the proper perspective, note that the NAT national average is currently hovering near the 60 percent mark. The DepEd calls this "Near Mastery." In practical terms, this means that the average Grade 6 pupil—and there are about 1.8 million of them—can answer correctly a little more than half of the test questions in each subject area.

To be sure, there are other pockets of academic achievement across the archipelago. For instance, Balatero Elementary School in Puerto Galera scored highest in the 2006 NAT with a 93.94 average score, followed by—you guessed it—Sindangan Elementary School in Macrohon, Southern Leyte, which had an equally impressive 93.82 norm. In fact Regions 4-A and 4-B have been more than holding their own these past years.

Then there's Caraga, which has been performing equally well. This year's top-performing school for the 2007 NAT comes from this region. In fact, Caraga and Region 8 are perennial top performers.

Eastern Visayas, Caraga and Region 4 are not particularly wealthy regions, as most of you very well know, but somehow they have managed to excel. In contrast, many schools in the resource-laden National Capital Region only managed to turn in mediocre, "Low Mastery" achievement levels.

I had the chance to ask former Education Secretary Florencio "Butch" Abad about this. He agreed that in Region 8, both the local DepEd officials and the teaching community have a healthy working relationship with the Parent Teacher Community Association (PCTA), the local government and private sector stakeholders including NGOs, people's organizations and corporate and private foundations.

But isn't this scenario also true in other regions and school divisions, and maybe even more so in Metro Manila? What makes Region 8 a cut above the rest?

I visited Tacloban City recently, primarily to attend the opening ceremonies of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power's Mentoring the Mentors session for the Tacloban City Schools Division. But I also wanted to see if I could discover what was behind Region 8's winning edge.

Our keynote speaker was Dr. Sol Matugas, DepEd director for Region 8. Not coincidentally, Dr. Matugas was the DepEd's former regional director for Caraga. Speaking before the principals and master teachers of Tacloban City, Dr. Matugas proceeded to outline the "secrets" of Region 8's success. Or more correctly, she revealed that there actually was no secret success formula at all. According to her, all they did was to make academic achievement a source of pride for the entire community. She emphasized that turning in high NAT scores was not their goal. Rather, their aim was to create a dynamic local alliance that would address the region's learning needs on various levels. Because the focus is on learning improvement, the local DepEd and the teaching community play a leadership role in the local education alliance.

Today, with the help of the local government and private corporate foundations and NGOs, Region 8's school divisions are linked together by the Internet. Almost all PCTAs are active, as are the local school boards. Tutorial groups abound to help pupils and students master their learning competencies sooner, rather than later. On any given day, there is an education improvement project going on somewhere in the region.

When the FWWPP launched the Education Revolution in 2002, our founders and trustees, notably Mrs. Eggie Apostol, Dr. Jose V. Abueva, Dr. Edilberto De Jesus and Dr. Maria Lim-Ayuyao were already looking beyond better test scores. Today, at long last, the issue of education reform has finally managed to inch its way into the forefront of national consciousness.

Dr. De Jesus stressed that every existing education improvement initiative is good but these are not of a magnitude to make significant change. The issue is really genuine, systemic education reform premised on consistent quality, driven by a strong sense of community.

The "Warays" call this "*pintakasi*." We call it People Power.

Butch Hernandez is the executive director of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power. E-mail comments to butchhernandez@gmail.com.

Undermining the senators' case in the ZTE deal

COMMENTARY

Leah P. Makabenta

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS Secretary Leandro Mendoza dropped by the INQUIRER on Oct. 24, and left behind a ream of documents. He also unburdened himself in a way he presumably couldn't in the overheated atmosphere of the Senate hearings on the national broadband network (NBN).

A two-year chronology prepared by his staff shows government dealings in connection with the NBN project. It also contains, among other details, an account of the desperate attempts by Jose de Venecia III's Amsterdam Holdings Inc. (AHI) to muscle its way into the NBN project.

Accompanying documents show different aspects of De Venecia's claim against various government officials and what might be called the senators' case against the Arroyo administration.

1. Contrary to what the public has come to believe, China's state-owned ZTE Corp. did not come out of nowhere proposing an NBN project. In fact, it can even be said that the government solicited the proposal when it asked the Chinese government for financial and technical support for the NBN.

The NBN-ZTE deal is situated within the context of a framework agreement for economic cooperation that top Chinese and Philippine officials hammered out in a two-day conference in Manila in June 2006 attended by, among others, Speaker Jose de Venecia.

By contrast to the orderly conduct of relations between two governments that characterizes the ZTE deal, the AHI build-own-operate (BOO) proposal for an NBN—which the Commission on Information and Technology and the Department of Transportation and Communications officials insist they could not properly evaluate because the documents relating to AHI's capability to undertake the project and technical specifications were never completed—was like a kamikaze operation.

The correspondence makes for almost comical reading. Even as the ZTE deal was in the process of being revised and after the contract was already signed, AHI was still engaged in a rearguard action, arguing that it had submitted all the documents (the DOTC wrote back that it didn't); supplying Mendoza with a draft letter of endorsement for its proposal to Neda Director General Romulo Neri; dropping the name of the Speaker; and finally demanding, in hectoring tones, that DOTC officials evaluate its proposal.

AHI did finally get an endorsement from Neri, echoing perfectly the wording and tone of the unsigned Mendoza letter—even before the DOTC could properly evaluate its proposal.

2. How did a project initially intended to be a build-operate-transfer (BOT) initiative become a government-to-government undertaking?

It is true, Mendoza said, that the President initially wanted the NBN to be a BOT project as she was totally against contracting any more loans. However, with the improvement in the government's fiscal situation beginning in 2006, and considering China's offer of a loan or loans at concessional rates, the President decided to go the government-to-government route. In the face of generous conditions (3 percent interest), Mendoza said, BOT would really have been the more costly option. He cited the government's experience with the Metro Rail Transit, where it has ended up subsidizing the very costly operations of a private corporation. (Now that the President has cancelled the ZTE deal, he foresees the NBN project going the way of the Metro Rail Transit.)

3. Everyone has tended to look at the loss of the NBN-ZTE documents shortly after their signing in China last April as the result of bureaucratic bumbling or, worse, as the work of officials trying to hide some wrongdoing.

The report of the National Bureau of Investigation, which sent its own agents to China to investigate, raises a corporate espionage angle.

During its investigation, the NBI probed a possible connection between the two Philippine trade officials in China who handled the documents after the signing and Hua Wei Technologies, the telecom company supposed to be AHI's China-based partner. Apart from finding a calling card from a Hua Wei employee on the person of the trade assistant, however, the NBI probers came up short.

But the NBI report raised the question on how details of the contract with ZTE, which until then had been kept under wraps, found their way to Star columnist Jarius Bondoc. And in December 2006, ZTE dismissed from its service Dante Madriaga, who was working as a consultant in its NBN-ZTE team, on suspicion of passing information to AHI.

4. The government is still duty-bound to build an NBN because it has to do so by law. But we are likely to end up with an NBN that will be more costly to taxpayers because, Mendoza said, at some point the private telecommunications companies will be asking for government subsidies.

The senators have made much of the AHI claim that its proposal does not call for any loan guarantees or subsidies from the government, unlike ZTE's, which would require a government loan. Maybe they are being disingenuous? The AHI contract calls for the government to execute an "executive performance undertaking," a guarantee that would mandate all government offices to use AHI's service to the exclusion of other private carriers. This would enable AHI to collect about P3 billion to P4 billion a year from government, a subsidy however one looks at it. Needless to say, an AHI-NBN project would be legally challenged by the private telcos.

And the Chinese? They will not necessarily lose from the cancellation. According to Mendoza, even now the private telcos are already asking the government to help them obtain loans from—where else?—China.

Teacher Tatin

YOUNG BLOOD

Mark C. Brazil

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

EVERYONE CALLED HER TATIN. SHE WAS A PUBLIC SCHOOL teacher, a public servant.

She remained single all her life, but it was very clear that she loved children with great passion. She was initially assigned to handle Grade 6 classes, but eventually opted to teach in Grade 1. She had noticed that many students reached higher school levels without the required reading skills, and she decided that she would help develop a strong foundation for learning language skills by teaching Grade 1 pupils. She demanded diligence from her students and did all she could to help them learn.

She was a devoted teacher. She went to her class on time and was punctual in completing her tasks. She rarely absented herself from school and established excellent relationships with her fellow teachers.

As a family member, Tatin helped take care of her nephews and nieces and supported them in their education. One time, she learned that one of her nephews was being teased because he didn't have a decent pair of shoes. She brought him an expensive pair.

Tatin was very generous to her needy relatives. She helped support a number of them through college and guided their careers. One of her nieces became a religious missionary sister with her help.

For most of her life, she did the work she loved most, teaching in her hometown in Misamis Oriental. But in June 2004, she reached her retirement age and applied her time to her family.

Four months after her retirement, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She immediately had an operation, after which she had to go through a series of chemotherapy sessions and cobalt treatment, aside from taking continuous medication.

Despite her illness, she still strived to live a normal life. She wanted to enjoy life and wished to see some scenic places in the country. But her treatment was very expensive and soon her savings were depleted.

Three years after she was diagnosed, the cancer cells were found to have spread to her vital organs. Having very little money left and because of the trauma from the painful side effects of her earlier treatment, she decided not to undergo further medical procedures. Consequently, her health deteriorated.

Knowing how much she wanted to travel, her siblings sold her small property and used the money to finance her trip to Bohol where she visited relatives in the company of a brother and a nephew. She was very happy to have made the trip, but shortly after coming home, she became weak and eventually fell into a coma.

On Sept. 20, 2007 at 7:30 in the morning, surrounded by her family and close relatives, Tatin expired in their ancestral home.

I came to pay my last respects on the last night of her wake. As I entered the house, I immediately saw her white casket draped with the flag. As I looked down at her, I realized that she looked lovelier than I had ever seen her before. She looked so calm and contented. I overheard some visitors saying that in death, her youthful beauty had returned.

When I asked one of her nieces why a flag was draped over her casket, she told me it was a standard practice to honor dead public school teachers. I found it consoling to know that our public school teachers are honored this way. They certainly deserve it after all the sacrifices they make to educate the youth.

That is Tatin's story. It is a very simple one, but it is powerful enough to move those who knew her. She was a dedicated and generous teacher, who in one way or another, has moved hearts, changed lives and helped prepare children for the challenges ahead of them.

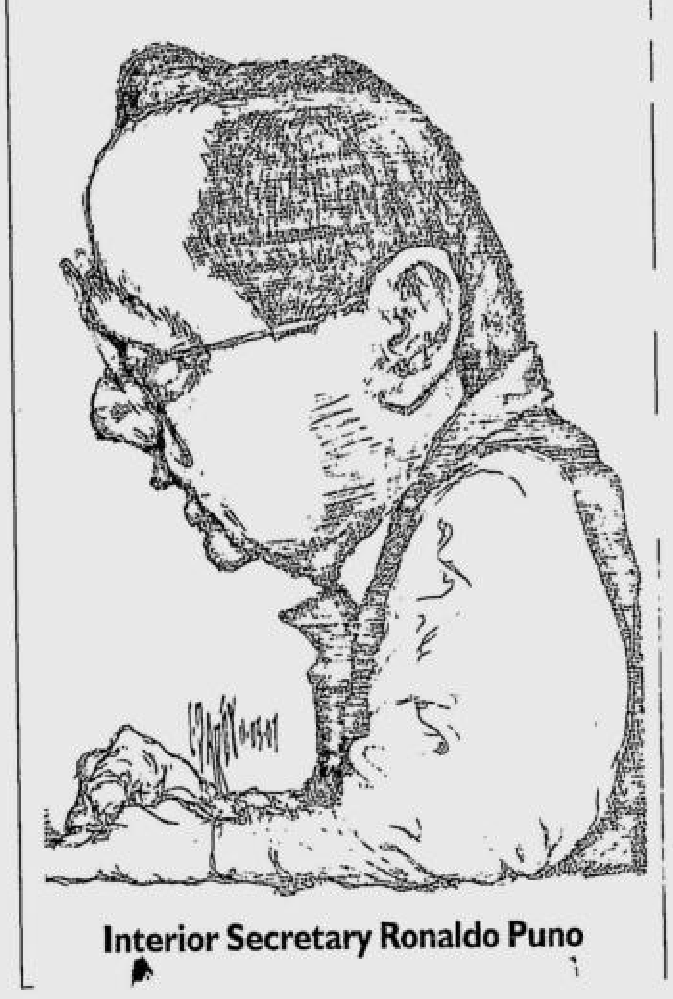
I cannot let go of this chance to honor a great person. I didn't know Tatin for a very long time, but the three years when I was acquainted with her was a wonderful blessing. In her I met a sincere soul, a model teacher and a truly wonderful human being. She may have left physically, but her memory will live and remain in the hearts of people whose lives she has touched. She will be forever remembered by those for whom she had made a difference: her friends and her former students.

Hers was a beautiful story. Tragic maybe, but wonderful nonetheless.

Now it is my turn to weave my own beautiful story. I just hope that when my time comes, somebody will honor me in the same manner.

Mark C. Brazil, 28, is a graduate of Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan and works to facilitate education for indigenous peoples.

IN THE NEWS



Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno

They also declined the payola

ASUNCION DAVID MARAMBA'S column about Eduardo Quintero is true. (INQUIRER, 10/27/07) May I say, however, that not all the delegates received the payola, especially the 16 delegates who voted "No" to the Marcos Constitution. Among them were my father, Jose P. Santillan, Cavite; Dakila Castro, Bulacan; Jose Suarez, Pampanga; Marcelo Fernan, Cebu; Margarito Teves, Negros Oriental; and Sedfrey Ordoñez, Pedro Yap (who became Supreme Court justice) and Rolando Piit. The others I cannot recall at the moment because I am now here in San Diego and my list is in the Philippines.

Don't you think these delegates deserve a place in our history for their courage and conviction?

After my father voted "No" and appeared on TV to explain his vote, our family was placed under surveillance and he was dismissed from his job as legal counsel of Iligan Steel Mills, through a Letter of Instruction.

By the way, another delegate who voted "No" was Justice Jesus Barrera.

Diosdado Macapagal, who was then president of the Constitutional Convention, voted "Yes" and served the Constitution to then President Ferdinand Marcos on a silver platter, and the rest, as we say, is history.

—**J. SANTILLAN JR.,**
totoysantillan@yahoo.com

Story about 'kartero' heartens Philpost

IT IS WONDERFUL TO WRITE TO the editor in chief of one of the country's most widely circulated and influential broadsheets, when the letter is not to answer a complaint but to thank the newspaper and its reporter, TJ Burgonio in particular, for an article on our outstanding postman, Floro "Pol" Camote. (INQUIRER, 10/7/07)

We would like to extend our sincerest gratitude for the generous space the INQUIRER gave the story of this humble and hardworking "kartero," and the genuine appreciation of the thousands of our underprivileged whom he serves unselfishly.

Highlighting Camote's dedication and love for his work makes the article truly inspiring. I am sure it has touched thousands of other honest, hardworking and committed public and private employees who quietly do their work each day, making them feel proud and rewarded albeit sans the exposure that a publicity brings.

Burgonio's article comes at a most auspicious time when we are preparing to celebrate our 109th anniversary (this November), and even as we reflect on our modest gains at the Philippine Postal Corp. (Philpost) these last few years. Our employees' morale continues to rise, and our fiscal health is turning around as well. This year we turned over to the National Treasury a modest amount of P5 million as share of dividends. We are looking forward to a better performance in the next years as we implement new policy directions and put in place some aggressive programs that will make Philpost competitive once more.

We have 2,200 postal stations and 14,000 employees nationwide. Let me assure the INQUIRER that the article has touched our people in Philpost in ways that will surely make them more dedicated and honest. If this is what is being achieved by the paper's novel program of "radical optimism," which I hear it is strongly promoting, let me add my congratulations. The INQUIRER itself has been an inspiration.

—**HECTOR R.R. VILLANUEVA,**
postmaster general and CEO,
Philippine Postal Corp.,
Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila

Edsa II player should apologize

THIS REFERS TO RAUL ALEJANDRINO's letter (INQUIRER, 10/29/07) where he admitted that he was among those who inflicted the Arroyos on our nation in 2001. With all due respect, I think he should consider apologizing to the nation for not heeding the plea of Justice Cecilia Muñoz Palma to return to the constitutional impeachment process after that infamous walkout. The entire country now pays for his folly in irresponsibly making a bad situation far, far worse.

Because of the Edsa II unconstitutional power grab which Alejandrino believed was superior to the 11 million who had voted for Joseph Estrada (I wasn't one of them), 80 million, all of us, are now suffering.

Erap has long pardoned all those who have wronged him.

A good precedent has been set. The Arroyos get charged and arrested in 2010 and convicted in 2017 when they will have become septuagenarians to be considered for pardon.

Nixon was pardoned without being even charged, and history has been kind to Ford. Suharto was placed merely under city arrest. Korea pardoned 31 grafters last May and its economy continues to soar. In the end Erap, out of nine cases, was found guilty of but half of the plunder case, for *jueteng* (at worst, he should have been found only of coddling illegal gambling, victimizing petty bettors, very far from plunder) and for influencing a deal that now benefits shareholders of Belle Corp., which is doing very well. Are they complaining?

Listen to the people. When they voted for Loi and Jinggoy Estrada and Erap's choices, and dumped Chavit Singson, they actually were telling the elite to listen to the jury, the Filipino people. A few days ago, 30 protesters marched in Ayala against the pardon.

Thanks for the kind reference.

—**R.A.V. SAGUISAG,**
4045 Bigasan St.,
Palanan, Makati City

Darab keeping case in limbo?

I AM CRESCENCIA N. TAMACA. I am temporarily residing in Tacloban City with my sister who is sick. I have a problem with our small farm in Carigara, Leyte.

It is only 1,400 square meters. It is occupied and used by somebody without our permission, without any rental. We filed a case against him at the Department of Agrarian Reform-Region 8 office in Tanghas, Tolosa, Leyte. We won the case. But he continued to stay there. He appealed to the DAR Adjudication Board (Darab) in Manila. Since then, our lawyer has been writing Darab, requesting an early resolution of our case but nothing has happened.

I, too, have been following up the case, writing Darab. But after getting no answer as well, on Nov. 2, 2005, I personally went to Darab to personally see Fe Arche Manalang, officer in charge. She showed me the list of cases with their numbers on the bulletin board which had been resolved, but ours was not among the decided cases. I asked her about our case. She just told me to wait for a short time. I have been waiting since then, until now.

On Oct. 10, 2006 I received a letter from Manalang informing us that our case has not been acted upon yet. We waited again. The case remains in limbo up to this time.

It has been almost five years since the case started. We are worried about it. We are getting old. We will have to divide the property among the five heirs of the late Patricia Tamaca, and we need to live there.

—**CRESCENCIA N. TAMACA,**
B-20, L-8, P-2 V&G,
Tacloban City

UNCOLLECTED garbage: a common feature of many Metro Manila streets

FILE PHOTO

Right time to wield iron hand against garbage

THE PROBLEM OF GARBAGE in the metropolis has grown so big that we seem to be at our wit's end in finding ways to solve it. Indeed, our sanity and sense of sanitation seem to be going wild.

TV campaigns on proper waste disposal may be good practice but they have proved ineffective. Perhaps it's time to change strategies, and get beyond the usual box of do's and don'ts and warnings about fines and penalties. For instance, why not come up with bolder reminders on TV and signboards everywhere, while apprehending culprits "in the act"? The arrests will somehow get the message across that the authorities mean business.

Garbage, yes, is the dirtiest—maybe, even the deadliest—stuff to handle. Those in the know make fortunes out of it. But as in battlefields, the men up front—those who do the dredging and clearing—are the unsung heroes who deserve honor equal to that given our soldiers now fighting in Basilan. Like the Abu Sayyaf, the uncollected piles of garbage, to a certain extent, threaten national security because of their ill effects: flash floods, damage to property, diseases and death.

With the smell of dump/landfill dispute still very much in the air, this is the right time to wield the iron hand against garbage—if only to push for a clean and greener Philippines.

—**LOURDES OBEN SANTOS,**
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Neri's 'executive privilege' bid incriminated GMA

ROMULO NERI MOST ELOQUENTLY incriminated Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in the ZTE-NBN scandal when he refused to divulge the details of their conversation on the subject. Not even the most gullible idiot will believe there is something in the plan to set up a glorified intercom system (as Sen. Mar Roxas described the NBN), which could be related to military strategy, national security and diplomatic concern (the justification for Neri's invoking executive privilege).

GMA's (and her very close associates') passionate interest in telecommunications dates back to the earliest days of her presidency—when a certain Pacifico Marcelo was allowed to enter Malacañang via a backdoor to meet with her and discuss the former's franchise on telecommunications.

Following Marcos' penchant for grandiose infrastructure projects that provide opportunities for plunder, GMA's administration has lined up, in addition to the ZTE-NBN project, the DepEd Cyber Education program which will involve the deployment of thousands of delicate equipment (including satellite stations) in the far-flung regions of the country that direly need decent classrooms and dependable electric power service.

Newly designated Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes is toying with the idea of putting up new nuclear power plants (to compound our Bataan Nuclear Power Plant problem) despite our government's lack of collective discipline and skills to even maintain our traffic light system in Metro Manila.

In Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza's first appearance in the Senate investigation of the ZTE-NBN scam, the audience had the rare opportunity of observing the men and women who run GMA's bureaucracy together in one room, under scrutiny by the Senate. The conflicts in their testimony were as apparent as their appearances—some looking like the burly mobsters in Francis Ford Coppola's movie "The Godfather," others, like the emaciated characters in the Dracula series.

As for Neri, he succeeded in projecting himself as a wimp, denigrating the National Economic and Development Authority which he used to head, to escape responsibility for the ZTE imbroglio. It is appalling to contemplate that the characters now under scrutiny by the Senate run the affairs of the nation.

—**E. P. DAKANAY JR.,**
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Las Piñas City

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BACK TO PEACE AND QUIET OF CEMETERY With All Saints Day and All Souls Day over, people living inside cemeteries have reclaimed their living spaces among the dead. Here a little girl plays with her baby brother inside an unoccupied mausoleum at Manila North Cemetery on Friday. REM ZAMORA

Old Pinoy ingenuity, faith ...

From page A1

the race's Challenge class, edging out cars from France, Canada, Chile and one of two entries from the host country.

"When we reached the finish line, it was an ecstatic experience. We traded lots of shirts with other teams ... It's really a good community and we're really fortunate we got to meet them," said team member Martin Sy-Quia.

Assembled from a group of engineering professors, graduates and students of De La Salle University-Manila, Team Sinag shone brightly, finishing the grueling race from Darwin to Adelaide (a north to south traverse) in six days, a day ahead of the deadline.

The team members started on Oct. 21 in Darwin and did nine-hour, nonstop daily runs until they reached Adelaide on Oct. 27. They drove at an average 60 kilometers per hour, the determined ideal speed for Sinag, the Philippines' first solar race car. At this rate, its charge could be maximized for the day's required mileage.

Manual calculations

"All the other teams used software to calculate their set speed, but in our case, we had four guys sitting in a car, two laptops, a calculator," said Robert Obiles, overall student leader.

"We manually calculated our velocity, speed and next set point distance every, say, five minutes. And that's from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m."

It was necessary to compute the speed against the car's remaining charge to ensure that it had enough power to end the day's run, he added.

And while Team Sinag was two full days behind the winner, four-time champion Nuon Solar Team of the Netherlands and its car Nuna 4, the Filipinos managed to finish 11th out of 20 teams.

This was beyond the Filipino team's expectations as Sinag's class included contenders from the United Kingdom, the United States, Wales, Taiwan and Senegal.

"These young adventurers have gone where no Filipino has gone before. They've bested high-tech competitors from around the world to finish the race a day ahead of schedule at 11th place, an overwhelming cause for celebration and pride," said DLSU Chancellor Carmelita Quebengco, who considered Sinag's victory "tops" over La Salle's recent victory in the collegiate basketball championship.

Built from scratch

Backed by a cooperation of government and the private sector (automotive, transport and power companies), Team Sinag unveiled the country's first solar race car in January, some eight months since it was built from scratch.

It is said to be a record time in solar car construction, since most members of the team had never designed a car before.

"The top cars used space-grade solar panels which have very powerful cells while we used terrestrial cells for commercial use, although they were still highly efficient," said Jac Catalan, assistant project leader.

With the help of experienced consultants, Sinag's engineers manually designed the vehicle using available solar technology in the country, creating a car with a "sleek monocoque shell" that can run up to 110 kph.

A monocoque is a metal structure, such as an aircraft, in which the skin absorbs all or most of the stresses to which the body is subjected.

Handmade

"They were basically impressed by the car... When we arrived at the raceway, the scrutineer (car inspector) told us we were among the most prepared teams. We completed the scrutineering (pre-race check) and the scrutineer was impressed with how prepared we were in terms of safety," Obiles said.

"One of them (participants) told us that for something handmade— they're used to computer-designed machines—Sinag's finish was very fine," said Sy-Quia.

Each race day posed a different challenge for the team. Besides contending with the technical requirements of powering a solar car and making the daily deadline, the team had to endure camping in the Australian outback.

"We woke up at 6 a.m., then everyone rushed to set up the solar panel because the sun was already rising. We installed the panel then charged the batteries. Then at exactly 8 a.m, we had to go or lose precious minutes," Catalan said.

"Then we spent the entire day chasing the deadline. We checked at the control stops—there were seven of them along the entire route. At the end of the day, the challenge was to calculate the speed and stop at the right campsite," he said.

Camp quarantine

On good days, the team found ideal camping spots. On bad days, there would be tire blowups and they would have to set up camp right there and then.

"Once we stopped at a place which was not exactly a campsite. It was previously a quarantine center that had long been shut. We set up there, turned on our lights using the generator... and all the insects of Australia were there," Catalan said, laughing at the recollection.

"We were just at the side of the road, there were a lot of flies and a lot of moths and we had to cook where we were," Obiles said.

It was also very cold. "Since it's far south, it's cold. We had to gather firewood and make a fire," he added.

Culinary challenges

Sy-Quia, who was responsible for preparing breakfast, lunch and dinner for the team, had his own challenges to hurdle while on the road in Australia.

"Once I woke up at 4 a.m. to cook rice. It was so cold I couldn't move my fingers. I had to warm my hands over a fire," Sy-Quia said, eliciting laughter from his teammates.

"One night, I made beef salpicao, I marinated it in the camper while it was running at top speed. It's hard [to prepare food] in a moving kitchen, [because] you could hit your head," he quipped.

And then there were car problems like when the team had to deal with a wheel alignment problem and tire blowups that seemed to occur too frequently.

"It was really a heartbreaker every time the chase car would tell us there were patches in the tire. That meant we had to stop and change the tire... which would ruin our strategy because we would lose a lot of miles per day," said Mico Villena, mechanical team leader.

Sinag's weight, a hefty 295 kilos, also slowed the car down and expended more energy. The competing teams' advanced cars weighed 150 to 160 kilos because it used ultra lightweight yet sturdy materials, maximizing their solar charge while running at higher speeds.

New, improved solar car?

Said Rene Fernandez, Team Sinag's overall technical team leader: "The car's weight was really a drawback. Given the short time we were supposed to build the car, we had no time to scout for lighter materials. And the shape was not very aerodynamic either."

Is there a new and improved solar car already at the drawing board?

"Putting together a team and building a car is expensive. But in this race, we learned a lot, and we are now confident that we can compete with [more advanced] teams," said Fernandez.

Started in 1987, the biennial WSC in Australia brings together at least 20 countries from around the world for a cross-country race of solar-powered cars. The Philippines entered the race for the first time this year, competing against teams from the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Australia, Chile, Belgium, Canada, Senegal, Wales and Taiwan.

AMAZING TEAMS Members of the Sinag Team trade shirts, jackets and smiles with first-placers, the Nuon Solar team of the Netherlands, who are fans of the all-Filipino solar car. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Scientists engineer 'mighty mice' as strong as Lance Armstrong?

WASHINGTON—US Researchers have engineered a line of "mighty mice" whose human equivalent would have similar abilities to cycling champion Lance Armstrong, according to research published on Thursday.

The breed of mice can run 6 kilometers at a speed of 20 meters per minute for up to six hours without stopping, according to Richard Hanson, a biochemistry professor at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

Fat power

"They are metabolically similar to Lance Armstrong biking up the Pyrenees; they utilize mainly fatty acids for energy and produce very little lactic acid," said Hanson, the senior author of the article which was published in the Journal of Biological Chemistry.

The genetically engineered mice remain slim and fit even if they can eat 60 percent more than wild mice in a control group.

Longer life

The mighty mice also live longer, and some females were able to reproduce much later in life than other mice.

The researchers said some of the mighty mice "have had offspring at 2.5 years of age, an amazing feat considering most mice do not reproduce after they are one year old."

More aggressive

Hanson said the strength of the mighty mice was made possible by the fact that they produced very little lactic acid, which formed during intense exercise.

Scientists bred 500 of the mice, which also showed more aggression than other mice, over the past five years as part of a project aimed at unlocking the metabolic and physiological function of PEPCK-C in muscles and tissues.

Special breed

The key to the unusual traits of the special breed of mice is the over-expression of the gene that influence production of the enzyme PEPCK-C (*phosphoenolypyruvate carboxykinases*), according to Hanson.

The transgenic mice are descended from six "founder lines" that "contain a chimeric gene in which a copy of the DNA for PEPCK-C was linked to the skeletal actin gene promoter," the research said.

Skeletal muscle

The resulting mice showed different levels of PEPCK-C in their muscles, but one particularly active group had levels of PEPCK-C activity of nine units per gram of skeletal muscle, compared to just 0.08 units per gram in the muscles of control mice.

"From a very early age, the PEPCK-C mice ran continuously in their cages," said Parvin Hakimi, a researcher in the Hanson lab.

Carbo fuel

The mighty mice primarily relied on "fatty acids as a source of energy during exercise, while the control animals rapidly switched from fatty acid metabolism to using muscle glycogen (carbohydrates) as a fuel; this dramatically raised the blood lactate levels," the research said.

The PEPCK-C enzyme was first discovered at the medical school of Case Western Reserve University in 1955, the study authors said. *AFP*

World's wackiest experiments revealed: Elephant on LSD

From page A1

New Scientist reports.

Here is a selection from the Top Ten, appearing in this Saturday's issue of the British science magazine:

Turkeys ...

- **Turkey turn-ons.** Pennsylvania State University's Martin Schein and Edgar Hale discovered that male turkeys, when placed in a room with a lifelike model of a female turkey, mated with the surrogate as eagerly as they would the real thing.

Schein and Hale experimented to see what was the minimum sexual stimulus, gradually removing parts from the model one by one until the male bird finally lost interest.

"Tail, feet and wings—Schein and Hale removed them all, but still the clueless bird waddled up to the model, let out an amorous gobble and tried to do his thing," says writer Alex Boese for New Scientist.

"Finally, only a head on a stick remained. The male turkey was still keen. In fact, it preferred a head on a stick to a headless body."

Wide awake

- **Eyes wide open.** In 1960, University of Edinburgh sleep researcher Ian Oswald wondered if it was possible to sleep with one's eyes open. He got volunteers to lie down on a couch, taped their eyes open, placed a bank of flashing lights in front of them, attached electrodes to their legs to deliver painful shocks and blasted loud music into their ears.

Three plucky volunteers signed up for the experiment. Despite all the impediments to sleeping, an electroencephalogram (EEG) monitor of their brain showed all fell asleep within 12 minutes.

Stoned jumbo

- **Elephant on acid.** In 1962, US researchers, curious about what might happen to an elephant injected with LSD, fired into a tusker a syringe-full of the drug, about 3,000 times the maximum dose for a human being.

The elephant trumpeted violently, keeled over and died within an hour, despite attempts to revive it with anti-psychotic drugs.

"It appears that the elephant is highly sensitive to the effects of LSD," the researchers sheepishly concluded, in a paper published by the August journal Science.

Dr. Lazarus

- **Reversing death:** Seeking to restore life to the deceased, Robert Cornish, a University of California scientist in the 1930s, seesawed corpses bodies up and down to circulate the blood while injecting adrenalin and anticoagulants.

Forced off the campus for his controversial experiments, Cornish continued at home, building a lab that included a heart-lung machine built out of a vacuum cleaner and radiator tubing.

Thomas McMonigle, a prisoner on death row, volunteered to be Cornish's guinea pig, but was turned down by the State of California, which worried that if McMonigle came back to life, he would have to be freed. *AFP*

INQUIRER Visayas

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Amerasians still hope for US recognition

By Vicente S. Labro
Tacloban City

ABANDONED CHILDREN OF AMERICAN soldiers who served in Leyte and Samar during the Liberation campaign in 1944 are still hoping that the US government will eventually look into their plight as most of them are already old, sickly and poor.

Albert Proctor, 61, who heads the World War II Leyte Gulf Landing Amerasians Organization, said the US Embassy in the Philippines missed the point when it told them to apply for US citizenship. The group had earlier sent a petition asking for recognition as children of US soldiers who fought during the war.

"What we need is not [US] citizenship ... [but] the [US government's] moral and social obligation to us as children of [its] soldiers in WWII," Proctor emphasized.

Most of its members, he said, could not seek US citizenship because they lacked some requirements, such as birth certificates signed by their fathers and the marriage contracts of their parents.

What they need is whatever aid that can be extended to them, including medicines and clothing, he added.

While some abandoned children have been successful in their lives, most are very poor, Proctor said.

Discrimination

They have suffered discrimination and have been deprived of the rights and benefits due them since birth, he said.

Proctor recalled that he was among those who were helped by an organization called the Philippine-American Guardians Association, which provided P7 a month for their elementary education and P15 for secondary education.

But the assistance was discontinued for unknown reason while he was a sophomore in high school, he said. He was, however, able to continue his studies through his mother's support.

Proctor graduated from college because he joined the Armed Forces of the Philippines and continued his studies during his free time.

A Scout Ranger, he retired after more than 20 years of military service. He now works in a security agency in Tacloban. He married and has seven children.

Proctor said many in his group were poor and sickly, and were having a hard time raising their families, including putting their children in school.

"What we are appealing is that we be given whatever aid is available," he said. "This is their obligation because our fathers were their soldiers in World War II, during the Leyte Landings (on Oct. 20, 1944)."

Decent people

Unlike American soldiers who go to Olongapo City for rest and recreation, their fathers were in Samar and Leyte in 1944 to fight a war, Proctor said. It was during that time that his father, a black American, fell in love with his Filipino mother and they lived together briefly until his unit had to move out, he said.

People like his parents and their offspring are "decent people who were victims of the cruel war," he said.

Late last year, about 40 Amerasians in Eastern Visayas sought the help of the Commission on Human Rights. The agency "strongly" endorsed their petition to the US Embassy in Manila, saying it recognizes the abandoned children's "basic human rights to live decent lives and to have full identities."

But in a letter on Aug. 9, US Consul Gregory Bernsteen responded only by informing the CHR of the procedure needed in applying for American citizenship by Philippine-born children of US citizens. The letter erroneously stated that the Amerasians were "sons and daughters of Filipino World War II veterans."

Their fathers were young American soldiers who were most likely natural-born US citizens, Proctor said.

THEIR FATHERS did not arrive during the 50th Leyte Landings golden anniversary celebration on Oct. 20, 1994, but still the Amerasians joined the parade and other activities.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THESE abandoned children of US soldiers of World War II are seeking assistance from the US government especially now that they are old and sickly. In photo are (from left) Esmeralda Ignacio Ingram, Valeriana Cabral Cabias, Jorge Monte Revelly Jr. and Albert B. Proctor, the president of the World War II Leyte Gulf Landing Amerasians Organization, which has 31 core members in Samar and Leyte.
VEN LABRO

No plastic bags, please, in Sta. Barbara, Iloilo

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Sta. Barbara, Iloilo

VEGETABLE VENDOR ROSARIO LUCINIO discreetly placed the plastic bags away from the table filled with all kinds of vegetables.

"I don't want my customers to see and use them," she explained. She instead placed old newspapers and banana leaves beside the eggplants, onions, tomatoes and potatoes.

"We are minimizing the use of plastic bags," said Lucinio, 47, who has been selling vegetables at a stall inside the Santa Barbara public market in Iloilo for the past two years.

She gamely explained why she was supporting a proposed municipal ordinance regulating the use of plastic bags in the market and other commercial establishments.

"I learned when I was in school that plastics cause pollution. They clog our sewers and rivers and also harm us when we burn them," she said.

The measure is on its third and final reading before the municipal council and is expected to be passed by next month. Santa Barbara, however, is already on a two-week test run in its implementation.

The proposed law aims to regulate the use or sale of plastic bags as packing or bagging materials and to institutionalize the use of biodegradable containers within the municipality.

It stresses the dangers of the continued proliferation of plastic bags, including the clogging up of sewerage systems, death of land and marine animals that mistakenly ingest plastics or become entangled in plastic bags, and the contamination of the food chain when polyethylene, the main plastic component, breaks down and seeps into the soil.

Biodegradable

Vendors—even those selling fresh meat, fish, fruits and vegetables—and commercial establishments will be required to use prescribed packing and bagging materials, such as those made from paper, cloth and buri, nonplastic sacks, sturdy reusable shopping bags or other biodegradable containers.

Consumers will only be allowed to use or carry plastic bags and reusable ones tagged by market administrators. Shoppers and market customers will be required to bring the prescribed shopping bags or containers.

The only exemption will be products like ice, ice candy, "ice water," sugar, salt, coffee and milk.

Glenn Beup, municipal administrator and environment officer, said the proposed ordinance was the town's response to efforts in other countries, cities and towns to reduce use of plastic bags.

Countries which have launched campaigns or enacted laws against the use of plastic bags include Ireland, South Africa, India and some states in the United States.

Sta. Barbara (pop.: 60,000), 16 kilometers northwest of Iloilo City, generates 10 sacks of plastic waste daily, according to Beup. Its market also serves residents of Iloilo City and the neighboring towns of Janiuay, Cabatuan, New Lucena, Pavia and San Miguel.

Several years ago, Sta. Barbara has implemented waste segregation and recycling, but 80 percent of all recyclable waste were made of plastic.

Beup said the measure also aimed to boost the market for woven and other native baskets and cut the vendors' expenses on packaging materials. Woven baskets are sold at P35-P50 each at the main entrance of the market.

Lucinio spends P30 per day for plastic bags, which she gives for free to her customers. "We can surely save if we just use old newspapers or if our customers bring their own plastic bags."

For the past two weeks, every Tuesday and Friday, the town's market day, municipal employees have been monitoring the trial implementation of the ordinance.

Since July, the municipality has been conducting an information campaign in the market and in elementary and high schools.

Radan Ferolin, who mans a desk at the main entrance, uses a megaphone to urge buyers to bring their own containers or plastic bags. He also explains why the proposed ordinance must be passed.

Another "enforcer" stamps and signs the plastic bags brought by the residents so these can be identified when reused.

"We have a long way to go but some are slowly bringing their own containers or reusable plastic bags," said Ferolin.

Fines

No penalty is imposed during the dry run but violators will face fines when the ordinance takes effect.

Offending vendors and commercial establishments will be fined P1,000 for the first offense, P2,000 for the second, and P2,500 for the third and suspension of business permits for three months.

Habitual offenders face cancellation and nonrenewal of business permits.

Consumers and customers who use nonprescribed plastic bags will be fined P1,000 for the first offense, P2,000 for the second, and P2,500 for the third.

Those who cannot afford to pay must render community service of not less than eight hours.

The measure has met some resistance from those who have been used to plastic bags and see no point in its passage.

"Other customers will still insist [on the old ways] but they agree to bring their old plastic bags or other containers when we ask them to. Some get angry but we have no choice," said Lucinio.

Meat vendor Samuel Soltis, 33, said the ordinance has noble intentions but is impractical for buyers of wet goods. "Some do not bring their own plastic bags so we have to make sure that we have our own because otherwise they won't buy our products," he said.

But for Lucinio, it's only a matter of time before customers kick the habit of using plastic bags.

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Guimaras fish supply down 65 percent

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—MARINE SCIENTISTS HAVE recorded a 65 percent drop in fish supply from the waters of Guimaras following last year's massive oil spill that ravaged the island-province.

Dr. Wilfredo Campos, president of the Philippine Association of Marine Science (PAMS), said the studies that were conducted starting two weeks after the oil spill in August 2006 until this year, showed the marked decline in fish abundance in the waters of Guimaras.

The findings of a research team headed by Campos was presented during the 9th National Symposium in Marine Science of the PAMS held in Iloilo City last week.

The studies showed a drop in fish density, biomass and diversity compared to the figures recorded in the same areas in 2001.

The fish density in Guimaras waters dropped from 1.5 grams per square meter in 2001, to 0.8 g in 2006 while biomass dropped from 26.5 g per sqm in 2001 to 9.3 in 2006. The fish diversity, or different species of fish, also went down from 48.2 in 2001 to 35.8 in 2006.

Fish density refers to the number of fish in the area while biomass refers to the weight of a fish.

Campos said the low figures were consistent in the 500-square-meter monitoring stations located in six sites in Barangay Tando and at the Taklong Island National Marine Reserve, both in Nueva Valencia town.

The areas were among the hardest hit by the oil spill after the MT Solar I sank 13 nautical miles off Guimaras on Aug. 11, 2006, spilling almost two million liters of bunker fuel into the sea and triggering one of the country's worst environmental disasters.

The findings scientifically validate the observations and complaints of fishermen and residents in the affected areas that their fish catch has substantially decreased following the oil spill.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and mangrove experts have also recorded the dying of at least 600 mature mangrove trees in Guimaras. Mangroves serve as breeding and feeding grounds of fish.

Scientists have earlier said that the long-term and full impact of the oil spill on marine life in Guimaras would only be known after many years and would require continuous monitoring.

Campos said the oil spill could be the main reason for the drastic drop in fish volume in the affected areas.

But he said they had expected the impact on fish supply to be short-term because the mature ones could have had evaded the oil spill by swimming away from the affected areas.

"This could also be caused by other factors that we need to study further because the low figures are still there a year and a half after the oil spill," Campos said in an interview.

He said other reasons for the low fish supply could include unregulated fishing, dynamite and other illegal forms of fishing.

PERSONNEL of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) lead the planting of mangroves in Barangay Tando in Guimaras during the launching of Green Philippines and Trees for Life projects.
ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

NEWS BRIEFS

Top workplaces cited

BAGUIO CITY—THE EMPLOYERS CONFEDERATION OF THE PHILIPpines (Ecop) has cited the top workplaces in the country that promotes reproductive health and safe sex, and a Baguio university has been chosen among the top three from the provinces.

The business community's list was drawn up by Ecop and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry after a survey.

The University of the Cordilleras (UC) was cited on Oct. 24 as one of the top workplaces advocating RH practices, the INQUIRER learned this week.

The UC campus allows its students access to medical care and assistance, according to a UC official, who asked not to be named because he was not authorized to discuss the citation.

Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Deaf urged to attend convention

DEAF PEOPLE FROM NORTHERN AND CENTRAL LUZON AND METRO Manila who understand sign language are urged to attend an annual convention in Novaliches, Quezon City on Nov. 2-4.

Organized by the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of the Philippines, the three-day convention aims to help hearing impaired individuals and their families to lead a more meaningful life despite their physical limitations.

On Nov. 16-18, an English program will be presented with this year's theme "Follow the Christ."

The series of Bible-based lectures would help individuals apply Christian values in their life, promote strong family ties and foster a better relationship with God and neighbor.

Admission is free. For inquiries, please call the Watch Tower office in QC at 4116090.

Prayer healing in Surigao City

FATIMA SORIANO, A 14-YEAR-OLD BLIND HEALER, PREACHER AND singer, and Fr. Jerry Orbos, will be in Surigao City on Nov. 8 for a Prayer Healing Mass at 5:15 p.m. at the Surigao City Cathedral.

Those who wish to attend the Prayer Healing Mass may see Nepa Goetina of the Divine Mercy Apostolate, Surigao City Chapter.

This mission is sponsored by the Divine Mercy Apostolate with the support of Virgie Barbers.

Cop injured in ambush dies

SORSOGON CITY—ONE OF THREE POLICEMEN WOUNDED IN THE Oct. 29 ambush in San Pascual, Masbate died Thursday, or three days after the attack, due to severe injuries, said Masbate Police Director Senior Supt. Saadra Gani.

He identified the policeman as PO1 Hernani Enriquez of the San Pascual Municipal Police Office, who died at the Mother Setton Hospital in Naga City.

A police official, Insp. Franco Andes of the Regional Mobile Group, was earlier killed in the ambush at the vicinity of Barangays Mabini and San Pedro.

Gani said the policemen were on patrol when they were ambushed.

Bobby Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon

1 missing in boat sinking

BACON DISTRICT, SORSOGON CITY—TWELVE CREW MEMBERS OF A fishing vessel were rescued while another was still missing after their boat capsized in Barangay Caricaran here early Wednesday, the Philippine Coast Guard reported.

PO2 Noel Gernale, investigator of the PCG Sorsogon station, said the victims were on board the FB Retriever and had just left Barangay Caricaran when big waves battered their boat, causing it to capsize at around 3 a.m.

Gernale said all but one crew member were rescued by fishermen and PCG personnel who responded to the accident.

Bobby Q. Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Cops nab suspected assassin

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—A FORMER BARANGAY CAPTAIN who supposedly wanted to kill the mayor of Maragondon, Cavite has been arrested in a police checkpoint in Indang town just before dawn Friday, two days after he shot and wounded two policemen and a five-year-old boy in a gun battle that took place as the suspect and his accomplices searched for their target.

Suspect Eliseo Pineda, 57, former captain of Barangay Pacheco, Magallanes, Cavite, was arrested in a checkpoint in Barangay Banaba Cerca, Indang at about 3:45 a.m. while on board a tricycle that he allegedly commandeered.

Senior Supt. Fidel Posadas, Cavite police director, said they confiscated an AK-47 assault rifle from Pineda who wore an Army uniform apparently to avoid detection.

"The suspect even identified himself as an Army officer thinking that the policemen would allow him to pass the checkpoint. He was in full battle gear. He looked as if he was ready to kill and die," Posadas said in a mobile phone interview.

Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

RUSH HOUR
Passengers rush to the port to catch ferries bound for provinces in Mindanao during the annual trek of Metro Manila residents to relatives outside the metropolis in time for the All Souls' and All Saints' Day holidays.
REM ZAMORA

Marchers take rest to honor colleague who took own life

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—PROTESTING farmers from Sumilao, Bukidnon took a pause from the Visayas leg of their 60-day march to Manila on Thursday to remember a comrade in time for the observance of the All Souls' Day.

Jennifer Ramos, of the militant lawyers' group Balaod Mindanaw, yesterday told the INQUIRER by phone that the protesting Higaonon farmers took a rest from their 33-km walk from Tacloban City to Sta. Rita, Leyte to pray for and remember Robin Lession.

Ramos said Lession committed suicide in December 1999 following a final Supreme Court ruling upholding a Malacañang decision, which gave the Quisumbing family the go signal to convert the land being claimed by the farmers for agro-industrial use.

The decision also voided the collective certificate of landownership award (Cloa) issued to the Sumilao farmers by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in 1995.

The Cloa gave them rights over the 144-hectare Quisumbing estate, which they have been claiming as part of their ancestral domain.

Despite appeals and protests, the government stood by its decision against the Sumilao farmers' claim.

In 1997, Lession was among the 17 farmers, who staged a 28-day hunger strike in front of the DAR offices in Quezon and Cagayan de Oro cities.

The farmers continued with their march yesterday in their bid to reach Manila by December. *Ryan D. Rosauro, Inquirer Mindanao*

GMA accepts 3 interchanges in SCTEx

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—President Macapagal-Arroyo has "approved in principle" the restoration of an original plan to build three interchanges at the Pampanga side of the P27-billion Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx), Pampanga Rep. Carmelo Lazatin said.

Reached through his mobile phone from Boracay on Friday, Lazatin said it was on his recommendation that the President restored the plan.

"The President, some officials and I had a lunch meeting [on Oct. 31] and in principle, she approved it," Lazatin said.

P670-million cost

He said the three interchanges—originally planned in the towns of Floridablanca and Porac and Angeles City—are estimated to cost P760 million.

The money, he said, will come from the sale of military lands that the Bases Conversion Development Authority has been selling since its creation by Congress in 1992 through Republic Act No. 7227.

Narciso Abaya, president and chief executive officer of the BCDA, the proponent of the SCTEx, said Ms Arroyo has discussed with him that it was "possible we can be building more than one interchange in Pampanga."

Abaya said he informed the President it was not necessary to sell BCDA properties out of schedule because the Japan Bank for International Cooperation has "offered" a supplemental loan to enable the Philippine government to "enhance the functionality of the toll way."

"We already have a schedule [in the disposition of properties]. We cannot go into a sort of fire sale. We don't want the value of our properties to be cheapened," Abaya said.

The plan was scrapped due to budget constraints.

Abaya confirmed this in a forum held here in September amid a dispute on where to exactly locate the interchange that the President approved in August at the request of the Advocacy for the Development in Central Luzon (ADCL).

The BCDA's loan of P23.06 billion from the Japanese government went to fund a 50.5-km road, three major bridges, 23 minor bridges, two interchanges, 140 culverts, and 38 underpasses at the Subic-Clark section, and a 43.27-km road, a major bridge, six interchanges, eight minor bridges, 110 culverts and 13 underpasses at the Clark-Tarlac section.

Both sections have their respective toll plazas and traffic control systems, a BCDA report showed.

THE SCTEx remains unfinished by its Japanese contractors.
TONETTE OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

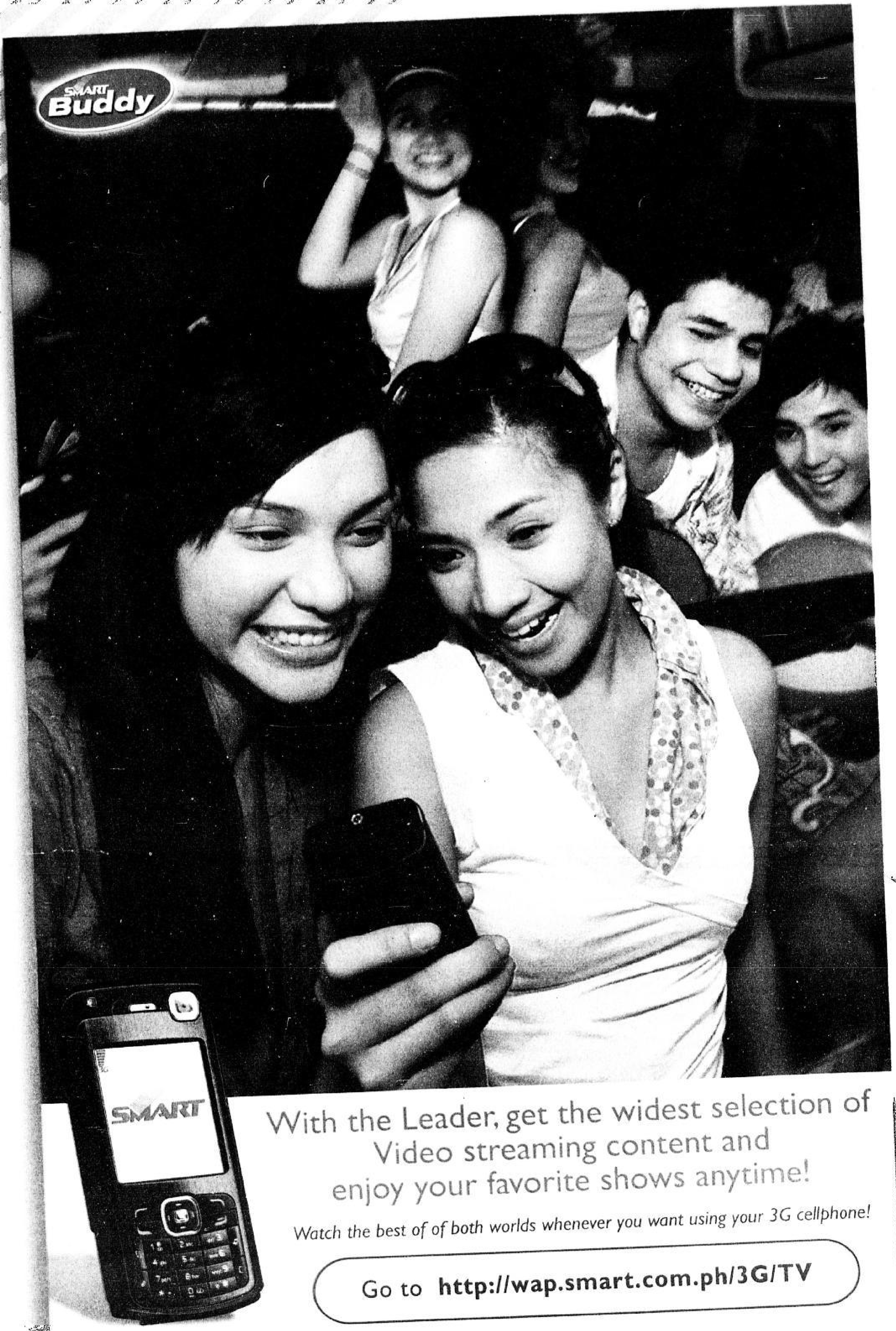
BCDA funds

The BCDA had put in P4 billion to fund the purchase of the road's right-of-way (ROW), project management expenses, physical contingencies, taxes and duties.

Although a national flagship project, the highway has remained unfinished.

The government gave the Japanese contractor of the Subic-Clark segment a four-month extension up to March 2008, without penalties, to cope with the delay due to ROW problems.

The Japanese contractor for the Clark-Tarlac portion has reported completion but has been claiming P500 million in "accelerating" the work. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*



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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil
Website: www.inquirer.net/metro

MANILA'S Paco Park used to be a cemetery, but is now a favorite venue for concerts and wedding receptions.
ERNIE SARMIENTO/FILE PHOTO

Weddings, not funerals, at old cemetery site

By Tina G. Santos

WHAT USED TO BE A PLACE FOR GRIEVING now serves as a venue for beautiful beginnings.

Located in the heart of Manila, Paco Park—a 4,000-sq m piece of property along Gen. Luna Street in Paco district—has now become a favorite venue for weddings of couples who like romantic settings.

Most weekends, blushing brides in gowns and dashing grooms in barong Tagalog or suits say their nuptial vows inside the oval-shaped, domed St. Pancratius Chapel inside the park, according to security guard Jovnito Lapizar.

Unknown to many, the park used to be the municipal cemetery for wealthy families who resided in old Manila during the Spanish era.

Originally intended for victims of a cholera epidemic, the cemetery was built in the late 1700s but was completed around 1820, according to the website en.wikipedia.org. Niches during that time were leased at P20 each, renewable every three years.

Burial ground

National hero Dr. Jose Rizal's remains were said to have been buried at the cemetery after he was shot in Bagumbayan in Dec. 30, 1896. Other heroes buried at the graveyard were the three martyred priests Gomez, Burgos and Zamora, who were executed in 1872 for their alleged involvement in the Cavite Mutiny.

The park is circular in shape, with an inner circular fort that was the original cemetery and with niches located within the hollow walls. A second outer wall made of thick adobe stones was built later, its topmost level made into a walkway for promenaders.

Most of the vaults now are empty although many were mysteriously sealed but unmarked. Burials have not been allowed since 1913. In 1966, the cemetery was declared a national park.

"Descendants of those buried in the park later transferred the remains of their ancestors to other burial grounds," Lapizar said. He added that one man came to light a candle and offer a prayer at one of the few remaining niches in the area on Thursday.

Open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesdays to Sundays, the park also serves as a venue for concerts and other cultural activities.

For a P5 entrance fee, it's easy to forget that you are in city. "People come here to relax and appreciate nature," Lapizar said. "It's a cheap way to get away from the traffic and pollution."

QC barangays tapped to help in tax collection

By Jeannette I. Andrade

WITH THE BARANGAY ELECTIONS OVER, the Quezon City government's newly elected officials are being tapped to work as agents of the city treasurer's office.

Quezon City treasurer Victor Endriga said his office is organizing a seminar-workshop to harness mass-based support in the collection of the "right and just" taxes due real estate properties in the barangay officials' respective areas of jurisdiction.

"Barangays get 30 percent of real estate tax collections, yet they have never participated in the collection process for lack of technical know-how," said Endriga.

The city's real estate tax collection has already hit P2.84 billion for the year. The new initiative may even increase both the tax base and the tax take through the participation of barangay officials in the tax collection process, he added.

"With this add-on knowledge, any attempt by tax dodgers to evade payment of the right taxes will be thwarted," the city treasurer said.

He added: "No person is more adequately equipped to know the land and the actual use by its owner as the barangay official who lives in the same community."

Endriga further stressed that an increase in the tax haul would lead to an increase in the revenue shares of the barangays, and thus contribute in a big way to their development.

CA junks Rockwell Land bid

Flyover caused her severe anxiety, says complainant

By Leila B. Salaverria

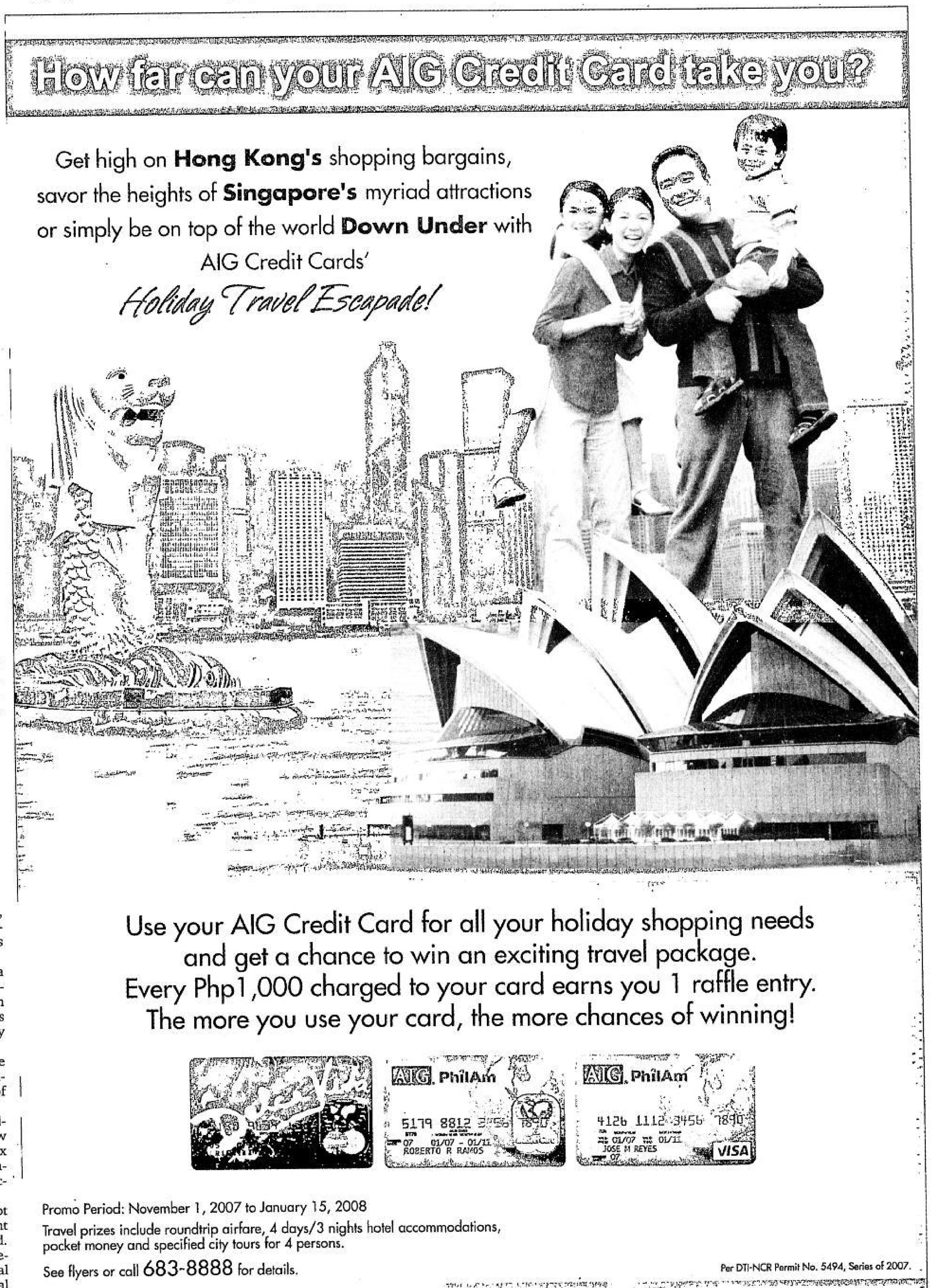
THE COURT OF APPEALS HAS REJECTED A BID OF ROCKwell Land Corp. to dismiss a civil suit for damages filed by a resident of an exclusive Makati village against the realty firm which constructed a flyover to facilitate access to its shopping mall and residential projects.

The appellate court said there was sufficient basis for the case filed by Lydia Imperial before the Makati Regional Trial Court against Rockwell Land to continue.

Imperial had accused Rockwell of threatening her by initially saying, through a Department of Public Works and Highways official, that her Bel-Air Village property would be expropriated after she refused to sell it to Rockwell Land for the flyover project.

Later, the road project was realigned so there was no need to acquire Imperial's property. But Imperial said she still felt she was being pressured to accept Rockwell Land's plan, thus causing her

CA/A18



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200 cases of elderly inmates in Bilibid up for review

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS has forwarded around 200 cases of inmates aged 70 and above for review by the Board of Pardons and Parole.

BuCor director Ricardo Dapat yesterday explained that his office regularly forwards such cases of elderly inmates to speed up their eventual release.

"That is being constantly undertaken by the BuCor," Dapat told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

In an Oct. 30 memorandum, the Department of Justice ordered the BuCor to process the records of elderly prisoners and those 15 years old and below so they could be released immediately.

The government has a policy of granting pardon or executive clemency to inmates 70 years old and above.

The DOJ said 377 elderly prisoners have been released since 2004, while 65 inmates who were minors when they committed the crime have been referred to the Department of Social Welfare and Development since May 2007.

Dapat said that after the 200 cases of elderly prisoners have been reviewed by the Board of Pardons and Parole, the latter would then transmit its recommendations to Malacañang.

The BuCor director said there are about 145 inmates over the age of 65 at the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City, 90 percent of whom are detained at the minimum security compound.

The cases of the elderly prisoners range from minor offenses to graver ones such as rape, murder, malversation.

Those jailed in the minimum security compound are mostly inmates who are about to be freed within a year or two, elderly inmates or those gravely ill.

However, inmates who are about to be freed but live near or within Metro Manila are not jailed at the minimum security compound because of the flight risk.

"Only those who live far away and are about to be released are transferred there," said NBP chaplain Robert Olaguer, citing the case of convicted rapist and former Zamboanga solon Romeo Jalosjos.

In an earlier interview, Dapat said such inmates are sometimes given "living out privileges" which allow them to move freely within the minimum security compound.

Some of them are employed by the NBP as helpers or office workers. But they are required to report for the morning and evening roll call to account for their numbers, Dapat added.

A prima donna still

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

NOV. 1 OF EVERY YEAR REminds all of us that death is a great leveler. Everybody–rich or poor, the powerful and the humble—dies.

Everything, including the hold on power, comes to an end.

When you die, you can't bring your money or power to the grave.

This is a reminder to people who are so drunk with power they use their position to punish or harass lesser creatures who cross them.

* * *

Karma, the universal law of cause and effect, is also a great leveler.

People who have done others wrong will have their comeuppance, not in the afterlife but here on earth.

They will have to pay their debt sooner or later.

The universal law is such that no karmic debt ever goes unpaid.

* * *

Why join the crush of people on the way to the graves of your dear ones every Nov. 1 when you can visit them on ordinary days?

Because of the noise and confusion at the cemetery or memorial park on the Day of the Dead, one can never communicate with the dearly departed.

An ordinary day, when all is quiet at the cemetery or memorial park, is the best time to visit the dead.

Silence makes for the best time to pray or talk to your dearly departed. That's why you concentrate more in a church during ordinary days when there is no Mass or service because of the absolute silence.

* * *

The regional trial court judge in a city south of the Pasig River whom this corner criticized for hypocrisy is still at his old game. This magistrate prays and reads from the Bible before every hearing. He even gives a sermon during the prayer session.

But this judge is so corrupt he decides cases in favor of the litigant who gives him the bigger amount.

You see, he accepts money from both litigants in his court, the accused and the accuser.

How does he collect the money? He sends his son to approach the litigants.

Kapal ng mukha!

* * *

Another judge in a neighboring town is better than the one mentioned previously because the second judge makes his verdict on a "first come, first served" basis.

The second judge immediately closes the "deal" after he has received a bribe from a litigant. He will no longer accept another bribe from the other litigant.

The favorite litigant of this judge is reportedly a Filipino-Chinese businessman who does not even attend a single court hearing but wins every case.

The judge is allegedly on the payroll of the businessman.

* * *

A woman doctor at the National Penitentiary in Muntinlupa City had been transferred to the Correctional Institute for Women in Mandaluyong City.

But the doctor allegedly found it demeaning to be reassigned to the prison for women.

Using the influence of a special friend, she was allegedly able to get a new position in a Metro Manila city.

Doctors at the city health office whom she overtook in promotion are surprised why an employee of the Department of Justice (DOJ)—the Bureau of Corrections is under the DOJ—could easily get the position.

The doctor has demanded and got a service car, a driver, a laptop, a bodyguard and other perks that don't go with her new position, according to her disgruntled subordinates.

I have it on good authority that where she came from, she was a prima donna.

That was allegedly the reason why she had been transferred to her new workplace, according to my source.

KRISMASKOT 2007

The Manila Christmas Family Festival parade will be held at Manila's Roxas Boulevard on Dec. 16 to celebrate family togetherness and Filipino Christmas traditions. The parade will feature 100 mascots, college cheer-dance teams, jugglers, skate boarders and marching bands. For inquiries on how to join, please call 4336288, 4357097, 0920-4014920 or text 0926-7278174.

METROBRIEFS

Navotas teachers seek solon's help

THIRTEEN Navotas City public school teachers said they would seek the assistance of their congressman, Alvin Sandoval, in a criminal case filed against them by his brother, defeated mayoral candidate. Federico "Ricky" Sandoval. On Oct. 23, the latter filed charges of dereliction of duty against the 13 teachers from the city's various public schools in the city prosecutor's office for allegedly conspiring to keep his poll watchers out of the voting precincts. "We plan to go to the House of Representatives on Monday and ask for an audience with Rep. Sandoval," said Esperanza Tecson, president of the Association of Public Elementary School Teachers (Pest) of the city. Tecson said their protest action had drawn support from teachers of other cities, particularly neighboring Malabon City, through a signature campaign. *Nancy Carvajal*

Man on billboard structure rescued

AFTER threatening to jump off a billboard structure on Edsa corner East Avenue in Quezon City, Jern Leonardo surrendered to firemen and the police who convinced him to climb down the 100-foot structure Thursday night. Jem Leonardo, 28, who said he sold dustpans for a living, told police Leonardo he was from San Miguel, Bagong Bahay, Malabon City. Passers-by began to gather below the billboard when they noticed Leonardo seating on the edge of the steel structure at around 4 p.m. on Thursday. The northbound lane was cordoned off and traffic diverted to the counterflow road as the rescuing team positioned two airbags directly below Leonardo, in case he made good his threat to leap. Five firemen went up the billboard and were able to persuade Leonardo to climb down after almost 3 1/2 hours of waiting. Authorities brought Leonardo to the East Avenue Medical Center to check if he needed treatment and to determine his mental state, according to Quezon City Fire Marshall chief inspector Oscar Villegas. Leonardo was the 6th person who attempted to jump off the same billboard near the Metro Rail Transit GMA-Kamuning Station. Police said they would tighten security measures in the area to prevent similar attempts. *Kenneth M. del Rosario*

Nicolasa P. Barros burial

Retired teacher Nicolasa Purugganan-Barros will be buried on Nov. 6 at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City after a funeral Mass at 8 a.m. at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Church on Mahinhin Street, UP Village, Quezon City. Barros passed on at the age of 91 in San Juan City and lies in state at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Church. She is survived by her siblings, Enriqueta and Ricardo A. Purugganan, children Dina and Abe Ellorin, Carmencita, Carmelita and Adriano Lopez, Benita and David Murrel, Antonia, Cecilia and Jade Presbitero; grandchildren Nichi Renea, Max and Bernard Ellorin, Francisco, Miranda and Leon D. Barros, Justin, Jerrick and Julia Prestibero and Jaime Murrel; sisters- and brother-in-law, nephews and nieces. She is predeceased by her husband, engineer Santos Biares- Barros, only son Valentino "Sonny," daughter–in-law Sonia G. Dipasupil-Barros and grandson Abram Nicolai Ellorin. Daily Mass offerings are held every 7 p.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish church. Novena prayers will be offered on Sunday at 6 p.m.

CA junks Rockwell...

From page A17

sleepless nights, severe anxiety, mental depression and tension.

She also pointed out that the flyover was constructed too close to her 712-square meter home at the corner of Zodiac and Estrella Streets, thus, diminishing the value of her property. The round-the-clock construction work also deprived her of moments of silence, she added.

Also included in her complaint were William Uy Construction Corp. and Danilo Trajano, project director of the Urban Road Projects Office of the DPWH.

The Makati RTC had twice denied Rockwell's motion to dismiss the case for failing to state a cause of action against it, prompting the firm to elevate the case to the Court of Appeals which also ruled against it.

According to the appellate court, Imperial had already stated her reason for filing the case against Rockwell Land, and that the latter failed to show that the Makati RTC erred in denying its motion to dismiss.

It said that despite linguistic lapses, the basis of the complaint could be seen.

"Thus, since the complaint contains sufficient notice of the cause of action even though the allegations are vague or indefinite, the sufficiency of the complaint has to be maintained," it said in an Oct. 19 decision. The appellate court also said Imperial's failure to implead the DPWH in her case was not a reason to dismiss it. It said the public works department was not indispensable to the case because the basis for Imperial's charges was the disregard of her rights and the violation of good faith.

It also said the Makati court's denial of a motion to dismiss was an interlocutory order, meaning it does not resolve the merits of the case.

The CA said the case should be allowed to continue if there was no proof that the RTC gravely abused its discretion in issuing it, and then Rockwell Land could question an adverse decision of the case.

Rockwell Land had earlier forged an agreement with the DPWH for the construction of a left-turn flyover along Edsa corner Estrella St. in Makati City to enhance the development of Rockwell Center which contains the Power Plant mall, corporate offices and residential centers, among others.

One of the conditions of the agreement was that Rockwell Land would widen Estrella Street to accommodate the flyover. To do this, the corporation had to acquire affected properties, including that of Imperial.

Tougher laws against disappearances sought

By Julie M. Aurelio

FAMILIES OF *DESAPARECIDOS* yesterday renewed their call for lawmakers to enact laws that would penalize enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings in the country as they mourned their dead on All Souls' Day.

The Families of Involuntary Disappearances (Find) yesterday gathered at a memorial for the disappeared at the Baclaran church in Pasay City to remember their missing and tombless kin.

"We ask the government to stop enforced disappearances, all acts of torture and extrajudicial executions... and lawmakers to immediately enact laws penalizing these," the group said.

"Where do the families of desaparecidos go to pray, light candles and offer flowers, not knowing where their missing relatives have been buried?" Corazon Estojeros of Find asked.

The Bantayog ng mga Desaparecido, a monument for the disappeared, was erected at the Baclaran church in 1994.

"This monument has been a silent witness to the immeasurable pain and longing that the families share," Find added.

The group also criticized the Arroyo administration for the continued incidents of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances.

"The lives of the *desaparecidos* are a stark contrast to our politicians whose squabbles on issues obliterate their avowed purpose of being in government," Estojeros said.

The group pointed out that the disappeared ones were mostly people "quick to defend the poor and marginalized" and that "they were serious and sincere in serving the people."

Let 4,000 trees bloom: Leading the way against global warming

By DJ Yap

IN THE SCHEME OF THINGS, 4,000 trees may not spell much of a difference in the fight against the worldwide phenomenon called global warming.

But for Jocelyn Tan and like-minded Rotarians—it's a good start.

Believing in the power of small beginnings, they planted thousands of tree saplings in Metro Manila and neighboring provinces early this week in the hope of awakening Filipinos' Earth-loving sensibilities.

NATURE-LOVERS (from left) Dr. Jocelyn Tan, Lt. Gen. Alexander Yano, Renato Magadia, Corazon Davis and Vicky Magadia plant tree saplings at Libingan ng mga Bayani. EDWIN BACASMAS

"They say that for you to live a full life, you have to plant a tree, write a book and sire a son," said Tan, who chairs the "Love of Earth" project of Rotary International District 3830.

"We hope this will have a multiplier effect on Filipinos, especially the youth. This is our small way of standing up for the environment," she said.

On the morning of Oct. 28, 642 Rotarians rolled up their sleeves and dug earth to plant narra, mahogany, molave, mango, cashew and kamagong for the simultaneous tree-planting activity in Muntinlupa, Parañaque, Las Piñas and Taguig cities.

Similar activities were also held in the provinces of Palawan, Laguna and Quezon.

"It's just a small thing, planting trees. But at the end of the day, we felt a sense of responsibility over these plants," Tan said.

"We realized that we have a role to play to help preserve the environment not just by planting trees but also doing small things like cleaning our area or recycling garbage," she added.

Teen partners

About half of the group were adults while the rest were teenage partners who belong to Rotary's youth organizations, Rotaract (above 18 years old) and Interact (14 to 18 years), she said.

"The young ones were actually the more vigorous about the activity," she said.

Tan added that she hoped the project would help spread "green practices" and habits among the Filipino youth. An orthodontist by profession, Tan said she came up with the idea for the project after watching Al Gore's documentary "An Inconvenient Truth" during a meeting with leaders of Rotaract and Interact in August.

"It really opened our eyes. After watching it, we thought we should start a project that would raise awareness of the environment among the kids," she said.

"Then when we heard of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' offer to donate seedlings and saplings for tree-planting activities. We thought, why don't we look into that?" Tan recalled.

After consulting with the DENR-National Capital Region, the project was soon put in motion, culminating in a memorandum of agreement between the DENR and District 3830 Gov. Renato Magadia.

Under the MOA, the DENR-NCR will provide all the plant seedlings and tree saplings for free to Rotary clubs that wish to participate in tree-planting activities.

The clubs, on the other hand, will identify "permanent green sites" for planting and provide the tools and labor for planting, as well as the proper care, maintenance and protection of the planted seedlings for three years.

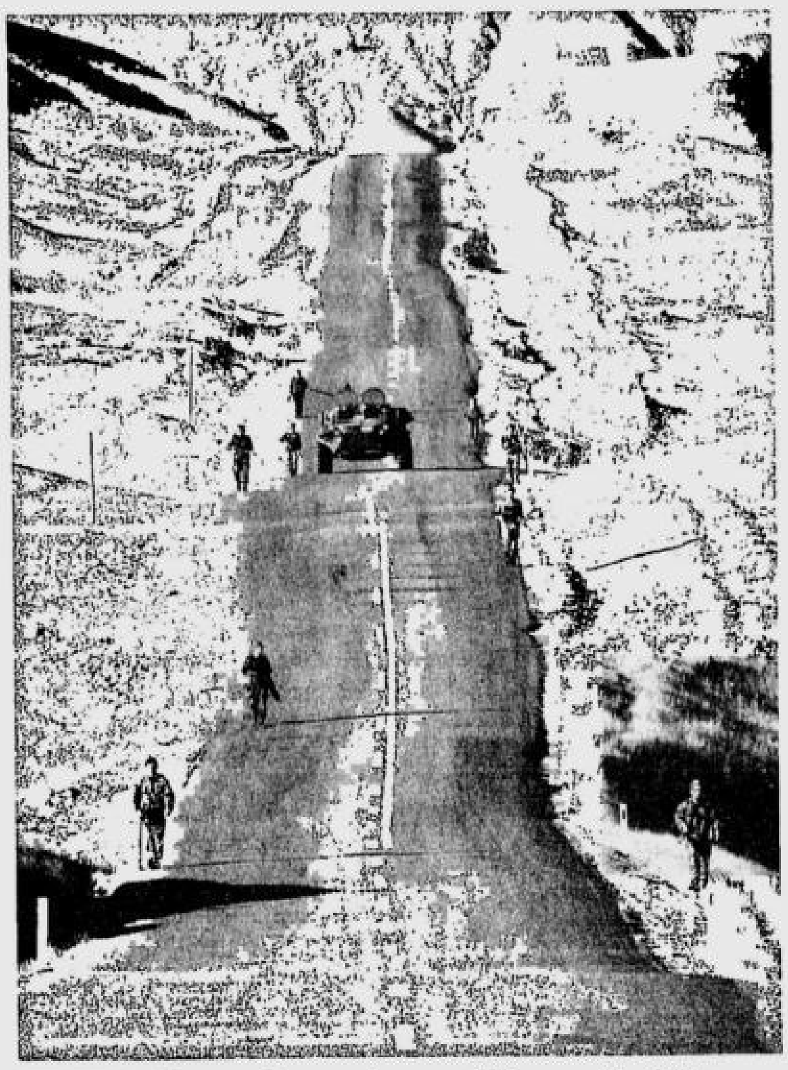
Sites

Forty Rotary Clubs planted trees at the following sites: Libingan ng mga Bayani, Taguig City; Bahile Housing Project, Puerto Princesa, Palawan; San Antonio Valley X and XI, Barangay San Antonio; BF Homes Health Center, Conrado Benitez St., BF Homes; Rotary Club Parañaque South Community Center, Francisco St., Phase 3, BF Homes, all in Parañaque City; Rotary Friendship Park, Pilar Village, Las Piñas, Sucat Ave., Parañaque; Tuhian Elementary School, Quezon province; Barangay Don Bosco, Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque; Barangay Casile, Cabuyao, Laguna; Pilar Village, Las Piñas; and Signal Village High School, Taguig City.

Other relevant projects included a mural-painting competition on environment conservation among 100 students of Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Muntinlupa, and the distribution of flyers on waste management in Barangay Pio del Pilar, Makati City.

Tan said she still could not call herself an environmentalist since "Love of Earth" was her first real venture in the green revolution.

But she said she hoped that the Rotary's efforts would convert Filipinos, especially the young, into true environmentalists.



TURKISH soldiers patrol on a road surrounded by mountains in the southeastern Turkish province of Sirnak, bordering Iraq, on Nov. 2. REUTERS

'Death sentences': US envoys revolt over forced Iraq duty

WASHINGTON—US SECRETARY of State Condoleezza Rice on Thursday made a worldwide appeal for her diplomats to serve in Iraq following uproar over new rules forcing them to work in the war-torn nation or risk dismissal.

"The secretary is going to send out a cable worldwide to people talking about this decision as well as encouraging people to serve in Iraq," State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said.

Rice's cable came after an emotional meeting in Washington late Wednesday between senior State Department officials and hundreds of diplomats on the new policy forcing them to serve in Iraq effective at end-November.

Diplomats have not been forced to serve abroad against their will since the Vietnam war era.

Some of the diplomats at the town hall meeting challenged the senior officials in unusually blunt terms over the policy to begin "directed assignments" to fill an anticipated shortfall of 48 diplomats in Iraq.

Jack Crotty, a member of the foreign service for 36 years, was among the most vocal, calling the forced deployment to the US embassy in Baghdad or in so-called provincial reconstruction teams in Iraq a "potential death sentence."

"You know that, in any other embassy in the world, the embassy would be closed at this point," Crotty said to applause by those present.

Three foreign service personnel have been killed in Iraq since the US invasion, State Department officials said.

A bigger round of applause went to foreign service officer Rachael Schneller, who related her bitter experience after she was diagnosed with "post traumatic stress disorder" at the end of a one-year stint in Iraq.

"I have to say that absolutely none of the treatment I received came from the State Department. I asked for treatment from the State Department and I didn't get any of it from the State Department," she said.

But Schneller, choked with emotion, said she had "absolutely no regrets about my service in Iraq," asking the State Department instead to have what she called a "moral imperative."

Other diplomats questioned the size of the embassy in Baghdad, the biggest US mission in the world, and wondered how they could do their jobs properly when they were located deep inside the fortified Green Zone and could travel outside only under heavy guard.

Some criticized what they said was a lack of training before traveling to a war zone.

Rice understood the "full tone and tenor" of the meeting Wednesday and her cable "obviously speaks to some of the concerns that were aired," McCormack said.

President George W. Bush, while expressing his understanding to the concerns of the diplomats, noted their oath to serve the country.

"The president is concerned, but he also has confidence that Secretary Rice will handle this matter in a way that is caring for the people at the foreign service, but also ensures that the mission that the United States is on is supplemented by the foreign service officers who took an oath in order to serve their country," spokeswoman Dana Perino told reporters.

E-mail letters were sent last Friday to about 200 foreign service officers identified as qualified to fill the 48 new posts in Iraq, saying if enough of them did not volunteer, some would be ordered to serve there. *AFP*

London police found guilty in 2005 killing of innocent Brazilian

LONDON—LONDON'S POLICE force on Thursday was found guilty of putting the public at risk during a flawed counterterrorism operation in 2005 that led to the killing of an innocent Brazilian electrician on a subway train.

The Metropolitan Police force was fined $364,000 and $800,000 in legal costs for breaching health and safety laws as police officers pursued and killed the man, Jean Charles de Menezes, 27, who they thought was a suspect in a failed suicide bombing attempt.

It is the first time that health and safety legislation has been applied in connection with a counterterrorist police operation.

The verdict angered some human rights groups and opposition politicians and renewed calls for the resignation of Sir Ian Blair, the commissioner of London's police force.

On July 22, 2005, in an operation prosecutors described as chaotic, the police officers wrongly identified De Menezes as one of four men who had tried to detonate bombs on London's transport system the day before. Two weeks before that attempt, four bombers killed themselves and 52 others on the transit system.

The officers followed de Menezes into a subway train in Stockwell, in south London, and shot him seven times in the head in front of horrified passengers.

The police made a "shocking and catastrophic error" and endangered the public, prosecutors told the jury on Thursday at the Old Bailey, or Central Criminal Court, first by allowing someone they suspected to be a suicide bomber to board the subway train and then by shooting him.

"It was the result of fundamental failures to carry out a planned operation in a safe and reasonable way," said the prosecutor for the trial, Clare Montgomery.

Ronald Thwaites, a lawyer for the police force, contended that a health and safety prosecution was a sign that there was not enough evidence to charge any individuals with murder or manslaughter. He said De Menezes was shot because of his own behavior, taking actions police officers are trained to identify as those of a possible suicide bomber about to detonate.

The police acknowledged that the operation had gone far wrong but denied breaking any laws.

De Menezes' family pressed for the resignations of officers in charge of the operation, but the jury cleared individual officers and instead ruled Thursday that the organization as a whole was responsible.

Blair, who had come under pressure to resign over the shooting, said on Thursday that he would stay on because the case had not uncovered any evidence of "systemic failure." *NYT*

Japan deadlocked over Afghan mission

TOKYO—JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER YAsuo Fukuda struggled on Friday to break a deadlock that has halted a refuelling mission in support of US-led operations in Afghanistan—and threatens to stall other policies as well.

Fukuda met opposition Democratic Party leader Ichiro Ozawa for the second time this week to ask for his agreement to resume the mission in the Indian Ocean, where Japanese ships had been providing free fuel for US and other ships patrolling for drug runners, gun smugglers and suspected terrorists.

The ships were called home on Thursday after a law enabling the activities expired. With opposition parties, now in control of parliament's upper house, vowing to vote against a new bill, the mission will now be halted for months if not longer.

Under pressure from the United States, Fukuda wants to at least show he is trying hard before a meeting with US President George W. Bush in Washington in the week of Nov. 12.

Ozawa, speaking to reporters during a break in the meeting, said Fukuda had asked if there was any way the Democrats could agree to allow the mission to resume.

"We talked about the antiterrorism law again and the prime minister asked if there was any way (to resolve the deadlock), but I told him the longstanding position of myself and our party," said Ozawa, who has argued that the naval activities lacked United Nations approval and violated Japan's pacifist constitution.

CREW members aboard Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force's supply ship Tokiwa bid farewell to the area of their appointment in northern Arabian Sea on Nov. 1. AP

"The prime minister said he wanted to take a break and he would collect his thoughts and resume the talks." Party officials said the meeting was to resume at 6.30 p.m.

Ozawa has said he would be willing consider new legislation outlining conditions under which troops could be sent overseas without requiring an ad hoc law each time, Japanese media said.

Fukuda told reporters on Tuesday that such a proposal could be discussed, but the two sides have different positions on the possible content, so reaching agreement would be tough.

Japan's military is constrained by its pacifist constitution, and overseas dispatches are always controversial.

Public opinion is divided over the Indian Ocean mission.

The talks between the political leaders—their second this week—have sparked speculation the pair are plotting a "grand coalition" to resolve a stalemate created when the Democrats and their allies won a majority in parliament's upper house in July.

On the surface the Democrats, who could have their best chance ever of taking power in the next general election, appear to have little to gain.

But Ozawa, who bolted the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in 1993, kicking off a chain reaction that briefly ousted the long-ruling party, has done surprising turnabouts before.

"All we can do is wait for the results of this meeting," said Yasunori Sone, a political science professor at Keio University.

Financial market players were mostly blase about the political maneuvering, concerned instead with a fresh wave of credit worries that drove down stocks in Wall Street and Tokyo. *Reuters*

Mexico doubles size of huge cocaine haul

MEXICO CITY—MEXICO'S DIScovery of a huge cocaine shipment from Colombia grew even larger on Thursday as the government more than doubled the size of the haul to 23 tons, making it one of the world's biggest drug busts.

Police, navy and customs officers found the drugs, the second major seizure in the past month, hidden between plastic floor-covering on a Hong Kong-flagged container ship at the Manzanillo port in Colima state on Tuesday.

They initially announced they found 11 tons but further searches of the ship revealed far more.

"So far, the haul amounts to more than 23 tons of cocaine. This is the biggest seizure of this drug in the country's history," the government said in a statement.

It was the latest blow to drug gangs since President Felipe Calderon deployed thousands of troops across Mexico to attack the dominant Gulf and Sinaloa cartels after taking office last December.

The seizure doubles the Mexican record, set only last month when soldiers found more than 11 tons of cocaine at the port of Tampico on the Atlantic coast.

Officials in Manzanillo have so far checked six containers on the Colombian boat, two of which were packed with cocaine divided into more than 21,000 packets. The search continues.

The seizure "is further proof of President Calderon's commitment to cripple drug lords and bring them to justice," US Ambassador Antonio Garza said in a statement.

He put the value of the cocaine at $400 million.

But the U.S. government said last month the average price of the drug on U.S. streets had risen to $118.70 per gram in the first six months of the year. That would give the Mexican haul an implied value of some $2.7 billion.

Around 2,350 people have been killed in Mexico this year in drug violence, most of it between rival drug gangs.

Last month, a private jet with nearly four tonss of cocaine aboard crashed into a southern Mexican jungle. *Reuters*

Pilot in A-bombing of Hiroshima dies

CHICAGO—THE PILOT OF THE plane that ushered in the age of atomic warfare with the first nuclear attack on the Japanese city of Hiroshima, died Thursday at the age of 92, a spokesman said.

Paul Warfield Tibbets, Jr., whose B-29 bomber dubbed the Enola Gay dropped the 9,000-pound "Little Boy" bomb on Aug. 6, 1945, died at his home in the midwest city of Columbus, Ohio.

He had been suffering from heart problems, manager and publisher Gerry Newhouse said.

Tibbets never regretted the bombing that led to the end of World War II but at a horrific price: 140,000 dead immediately and 80,000 other Japanese succumbing in the aftermath, according to Hiroshima officials.

"That's what it took to end the war," he told the Columbus Dispatch in 2003. "I went out to stop the killing all over." Tibbets was just a 30-year-old lieutenant colonel when he piloted the plane named after his mother. Decades later, the memory of the first atomic bomb fired in anger stayed vivid in his mind.

"If Dante had been with us on the plane, he would have been terrified," Tibbets once said.

"The city we had seen so clearly in the sunlight a few minutes before was now an ugly smudge. It had completely disappeared under this awful blanket of smoke and fire." Though Tibbets saw little of the devastation wreaked on Hiroshima—he turned the plane too quickly to even see the first flash—he would walk the streets of Nagasaki a few weeks after the second atom bomb was dropped there.

He went to sate "academic curiosity," he explained, buying a half dozen lacquered rice bowls and a few hand-carved wooden saucers from a street vendor before he left.

"A couple of the streets we walked had swelled," he told the Dispatch, as he described the buckling of the earth caused by the intensity of the blast. "Damnedest thing you've ever seen."

Tibbets stayed in the Air Force after the Japanese surrender, eventually making his way up to the rank of brigadier general before retiring in 1966 when he retired to fly private planes in Europe and then Ohio.

A highly decorated pilot, he nonetheless endured a spate of urban legends that he had been imprisoned, institutionalized or committed suicide out of guilt.

"They said I was crazy," he groused in 2003, "said I was a drunkard, in and out of institutions. At the time, I was running the National Crisis Center at the Pentagon."

Born in Quincy, Illinois on Feb. 23, 1915, Tibbets decided he wanted to be a pilot during his first flight at age 12 when he threw Baby Ruth candy bars to a crowd as an advertising stunt.

His parents wanted him to be a doctor, and Tibbets spent several years in medical school before he enlisted as a flying cadet in 1937 with the Army Air Corps.

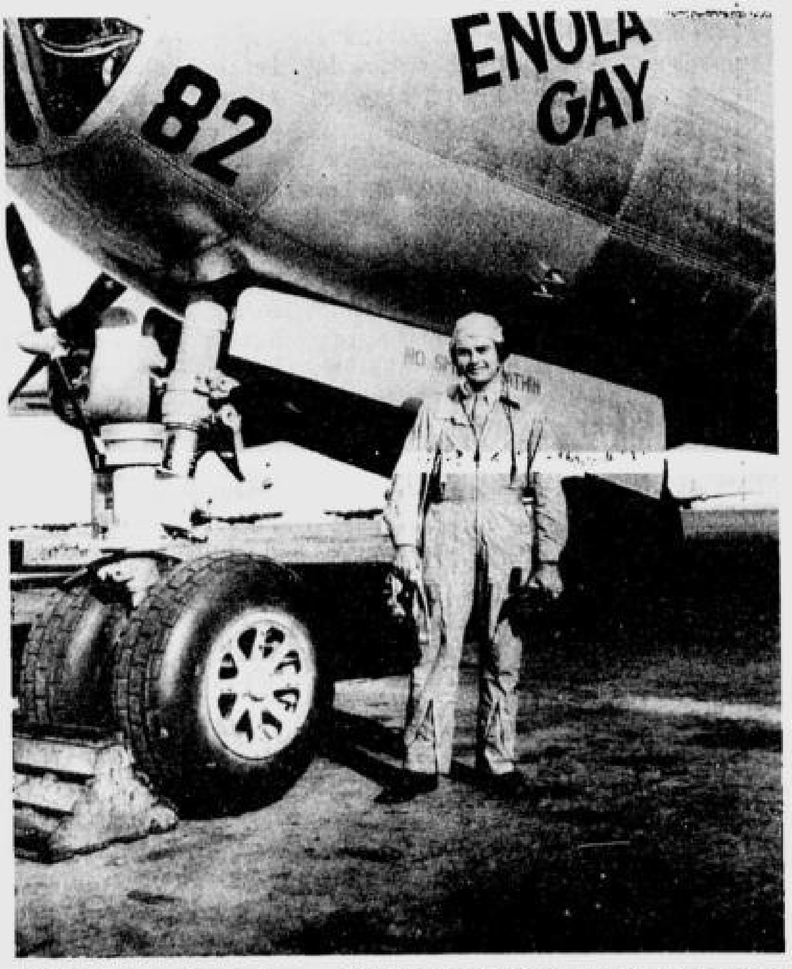
He became squadron commander of the 340th Bomb Squadron in February 1942 and flew 25 missions in the first American Flying Fortress raids against occupied Europe.

He returned to the United States in March 1943 to test the combat capability of the problem-plagued B-29 and became the plane's most experienced pilot after flying about 400 hours of tests.

He was brief on the Manhattan Project in September 1944 and was told to organize and train a unit to deliver the bombs and supervise the modification of the B-29 so it could deliver the massive bombs.

President Harry S. Truman gave his approval to drop the bomb in the afternoon of Aug. 5, 1945.

Tibbets and his crew lifted off at 2:45 a.m. for an uneventful six-hour flight to Japan. They dropped the first atomic bomb used in combat at 9:15 plus 15 seconds and returned to base at 2:58 p.m. *AFP*



PILOT Col. Paul Tibbets poses in this undated photo in front of his B-29 Superfortress "Enola Gay" at Roswell Army Airfield, New Mexico. AFP

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

N. Korea seen nuke-free by early 2008

SEOUL—NORTH KOREA COULD BE NUCLEAR-FREE "soon in the coming year" if it honors a deal to declare all its weapons programs, but UN sanctions will stay in force until then, US envoy Christopher Hill said Friday.

The communist state, which tested an atomic weapon in October 2006, is set to start disabling its plutonium-producing plants early next week under a six-nation accord which also requires it to declare all its nuclear programs.

"We're expecting the first draft declaration… probably in a matter of the next couple of weeks," said Hill, an assistant secretary of state and the chief US envoy to six-nation talks on denuclearizing the North.

"The idea is that as we receive that, we have some information on programs we would want to have follow-on discussions on, with the understanding that by the end of the year we will have a complete declaration that everyone would agree is complete."

The North has promised by year-end to disable the plants and declare a list of all programs including a suspected highly enriched uranium project.

"I think if we can get through this list, I'm hopeful that we will create a situation where the momentum will push us through and we'll get through the entire process of denuclearization and soon in the coming year," Hill told reporters after talks with his South Korean counterpart Chun Young-Woo.

Hill said a nine-strong US expert team would travel to the North's main nuclear complex at Yongbyon later Friday or Saturday to prepare to supervise the disabling of three plants there.

Under the February accord the North will receive energy aid worth hundreds of millions of dollars for disablement.

It shut the Yongbyon plants in July but disablement aims to put them out of action for up to a year.

After a 1994 denuclearization pact fell apart in 2002, the North quickly resumed production of bomb-making plutonium and now has an estimated 45-65 kilograms (99-143 lbs)—enough to build several bombs.

If the North goes on next year to dismantle the plants and give up its plutonium and weapons, it can expect normalized relations with Washington and a peace pact to replace the armistice which ended the 1950-53 Korean War.

Hill said a peace treaty, and the lifting of UN nuclear-related sanctions, would come only after North Korea completely abandons its nuclear weapons.

"The sanctions are there until the DPRK (North Korea) gets out of the nuclear business," he said. *AFP*

NORTH Korean soldiers look south from the DMZ separating the two Koreas on Nov. 2. REUTERS

FIRE-repressing fog moves into an area charred by the recent 80,000-acre Harris Fire, where the burnt remains of rare Tecate cypress trees killed in the 2003 Cypress Fire stand in the Otay Mountains on Nov. 1 southeast of San Diego, California. AFP

World powers to discuss slapping sanctions on Iran

LONDON—THE FIVE PERMANENT members of the UN Security Council plus Germany will discuss imposing a third round of sanctions on Iran because of its nuclear program on Friday.

Iran has refused to stop enriching uranium and the West fears it is bent on producing atomic bombs, which Tehran denies.

The United States, which will be represented by undersecretary of state for political affairs Nicholas Burns, says it wants to make progress in outlining the sanctions resolution and ministers can then decide on its timing.

Burns said he hoped Russia and China would attend the London meeting with a "serious demeanor." He said the two countries, major trading partners with Iran, had effectively blocked moves towards a third sanctions resolution for six months.

The United States imposed economic sanctions last week and has not ruled out military action against Iran. Russia believes dialogue rather than more punishment is the way forward while China reacted to the American move by saying it was opposed to imposing sanctions "too rashly."

Speaking to reporters on Friday on her way to Turkey, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Washington had had some "tactical" differences with China and Russia about the timing and the "depth or breadth" of a Security Council resolution.

"But the Russians—when I talked to (Foreign Minister) Sergei Lavrov yesterday—he said they were prepared to come and work on the text as we agreed when we were together last and we will just have to see how those discussions go," she said.

The major powers agreed in late September to delay a vote on tougher sanctions until late November at the earliest after it had received reports by the UN nuclear watchdog and a European Union negotiator.

After four days of talks with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Tehran meant to help clear up suspicions about Iran's atomic activities, both sides expressed satisfaction, Iran's state broadcaster reported on Thursday.

Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the IAEA, is due to report in mid-November about whether Iran has answered questions about its past secret nuclear activity.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said this week Tehran would not retreat in the dispute and dismissed US offers of broader negotiations if Iran suspended its most sensitive atomic work.

Iran says its program is peaceful and aimed at generating electricity so that it can export more oil and gas. *Reuters*

Boy accused of starting California fire; officials unsure of what to do

SANTA CLARITA, CALIFORNIA—When arson investigators went looking for the person who set a blaze that scorched 155 square kilometers and destroyed 21 homes, Linda Conner says she knew right where to send them.

Minutes after the fire broke out, Conner said, she had raced up a hill toward the source of the flames. At the top, she saw a stunned-looking 10-year-old boy and his parents frantically trying to beat the flames down with towels.

"There's no reason to talk to other people," Conner, a horse trainer at the ranch where the fire started, recalled telling arson investigators. "You need to go straight up the road and talk to that boy."

The 10-year-old quickly admitted he had been playing with matches.

On Thursday, as authorities considered whether to file criminal charges, neighbors gave conflicting accounts of the boy's behavior.

Denise Tomey, who runs the Carousel Ranch where the boy lived in a small trailer with his family, described him as a quiet child who often played outside with his brother and the family's small white and tan dog, Spike.

"From what I know, he's a good kid," said Tomey, executive director of the ranch, which provides riding lessons to developmentally disabled children. The boy's father tends horses there and the boy attends a nearby school.

"He's a child and I certainly believe that he had no malice, and I absolutely believe it was accidental," Tomey said.

Some neighbors, though, called the 10-year-old a troublesome child.

Linny Martin, who lives across the road, said she often caught him throwing rocks at her horses. When she yelled at him to stop, she said, he would run up the hill to his family's trailer.

"He's got a lot of problems," Martin said.

The boy's name is being withheld. Legal experts say arson charges against him are unlikely, given that he may have been too young to understand how much damage his matchplay could cause.

The fire he admitted starting was one of more than 15 that roared across a wide swath of Southern California last week, blackening 2,095 sq km from north of Los Angeles to the Mexican border and destroying more than 2,000 homes. Causes have ranged from arson to downed power lines to sparks set off by construction work. *AP*

A TIGER yawns at the Ranthambore National Park, in India's northwestern Rajasthan state. AFP

Militants draw new front line inside Pakistan

PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN—THE MOUNTAINOUS region of Swat has become the newest front line in the battle between Islamic militants, who are sympathetic to the Taliban and al-Qaida, and Pakistan's nervous security forces. For the first time, heavy fighting has moved beyond Pakistan's tribal fringe and into more settled areas.

On Thursday, government forces attacked about 500 militants in the area, killing about 60 men, said Badshah Gul Wazir, the home secretary for the North West Frontier province. The militants said they had captured 44 members of the Frontier Corps and were holding them hostage.

The battles are part of what has become an expanding insurgency within Pakistan, aimed directly at the government of Gen. Pervez Musharraf rather than at the NATO and American forces across the Afghan border who have been the target for several years.

Many here say the militancy is fueled by anger over the government alliance with the Bush administration and what is seen as a pro-American agenda that has grown in prominence with the return of the opposition leader Benazir Bhutto. She has accused the militants of trying to take over the country.

The conflict in Swat reflects many of the reasons Pakistan has become such a dangerous place: the aggressiveness of militants; the passivity of the government and its security forces; the starved civilian apparatus, including schools and hospitals, which has failed to provide the backbone for a counterinsurgency. So grave is the threat that more than 2,000 Pakistani soldiers were dispatched to quell the militants in the Swat area in July. But for three months, they were intimidated and mostly inactive. Reinforcements sent last week were hit by a suicide bomber who killed 17 paramilitary soldiers. That provoked the government action on Thursday.

Since the clashes began last week, schools have been closed, a vital polio vaccination campaign for children has been abandoned and police posts have been left empty, residents said. *NYT*

India calls up ex-Army men to save vanishing Bengal tigers

NEW DELHI—INDIA IS RECRUITING retired Army personnel to guard sanctuaries sheltering the increasingly rare Royal Bengal Tiger after a study showed their numbers were far below previous estimates.

The call-up for a "tiger protection force" came among a list of "urgent measures" announced by the environment ministry after research found the "tiger population may be in the range of 1300-1500."

An earlier official count in 2001-02 estimated that there were 3,642 tigers in India.

The latest information shows that the tiger population in reserves "has changed marginally" but it has plummeted outside the protected areas, said an official statement released Thursday night.

"The protection status in tiger reserves and other areas is not up to the desired level," the ministry admitted, alluding to security measures. *AFP*

US artificial joint makers paid more than $200M to doctors, hospitals

MINNEAPOLIS—THE HIPS AND knees are synthetic, but it is real money that is changing hands.

Five makers of artificial joints have paid more than $200 million this year to US doctors and hospitals, often the same ones who are deciding which company's joints to buy, according to an Associated Press calculation of disclosures required this week by a settlement with federal prosecutors.

The five companies were scrutinized by the US attorney's office in New Jersey over allegations they gave money and trips to surgeons who used their products. Four of them—Biomet Inc., DePuy Orthopaedics Inc., Smith & Nephew Inc. and Zimmer Holdings Inc.—had their charges dropped when they paid a total of $310 million in fines and agreed to monitoring in a settlement announced in September. The fifth company, Stryker Corp., was never charged and paid no fines but agreed to disclose its payments.

The payments to doctors and hospitals ranged from a few dollars to individual doctors to about $3.9 million to Mayo Clinic. And the AP's calculation is conservative, because the companies were required to disclose payments within a $25,000 range, and the AP used the low end in its calculation.

The money includes items like royalties for inventions and payments for teaching classes. Prosecutors alleged that from at least 2002 through 2006, the companies paid exorbitant amounts for doctors to be consultants and to use their products exclusively.

They did not allege that all the money was illegitimate.

"Certainly it was not a majority of doctors who had contracts that were operating illegally," said Mike Drewniak, a spokesperson for the US attorney's office in New Jersey. Drewniak said the investigation into the five companies in the settlement has wrapped up, but that prosecutors are still looking into payments by smaller medical device companies. *AP*

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KERBY Raymundo (left) of Purefoods tries to wrestle his way past Welcoat's Nic Belasco. RYAN LIM

Giants bring Dragons back to earth; Bulls rip Realtors

GAMES TODAY (*Fresnedi Gym, Muntinlupa City*)
4:30 p.m.—Air 21 vs Coca-Cola
7 p.m.—Talk N Text vs Magnolia

By June Navarro

THE WELCOAT DRAGONS tried to figure out a way to smother James Yap. They just couldn't find any.

Yap mocked every defender thrown at him and carried the Purefoods Giants to an 87-77 victory over the Dragons last night in the Smart-PBA Philippine Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The 2005 league MVP unloaded 18 of his game-high 28 points in the pivotal fourth quarter as the Giants survived another attempt at an upset by the dangerous Dragons, who pulled the rug from under the Barangay Ginebra Kings last week.

Sophomore wingman Jireh Ibañes, rookie Ryan Araña and, at some point, Rob Wainwright took turns in guarding Yap only to get frustrated in the end, paving the way for a fourth straight win by the unbeaten Giants.

Kerby Raymundo also proved instrumental in the latter half, taking matters into his hands during several crucial episodes on the strict orders of coach Ryan Gregorio.

Starting out lethargic, Raymundo followed Gregorio's instructions to the letter as he aggressively attacked from the perimeter to contribute 23 points on top of 11 rebounds, three assists and three steals in the process.

"As I've said, Welcoat shouldn't be taken for granted," said Gregorio. "It's hard to be complacent against a team which convincingly defeated one of the toughest squads in the league."

Cyrus Baguio's all-around performance helped Red Bull score a 100-94 demolition of Sta. Lucia Realty in the other game.

Baguio had 15 points on top of six rebounds, seven assists, two steals and three blocks as the Bulls rolled to their third consecutive win for a 3-1 record that tied them with Magnolia.

The Realtors absorbed their third defeat and fell in the company of the Dragons and Kings at 1-3.

The Dragons, who clobbered the crowd-favorite Kings, 82-64, in an out-of-town game last week, stuck it out with the Giants most of the way.

Joe Devance led the Dragons with 17 points while Nic Belasco, the hero of their Ginebra triumph, registered a conference-high 20 rebounds.

The scores:

First Game

PUREFOODS 87—Yap 28, Raymundo 23, Adducul 9, Simon 7, Lanete 7, Salvador 6, Pingris 3, Cablay 2, Yee 2, Larong 0.

WELCOAT 77—Devance 17, Reyes 14, Wainwright 13, Araña 8, Belasco 7, Lopez 6, Gelig 6, Dulay 4, Ibañes 2, Baguion 0.

Quarters: 19-20, 32-all, 58-56, 87-77

Second Game

RED BULL 100—Baguio 15, Najorda 14, Robinson 13, Adriano 13, Hrabak 11, Membrere 10, Bugia 6, Cruz 6, Sharma 4, Valenzuela 3, Pennisi 3, Andaya 2.

STA. LUCIA 94—Williams 20, Omolon 18, Miranda 13, Yeo 12, Espino 10, Aquino 9, Mendoza 6, Daa 4, Coronel 2, Mamaclay 0, Gonzales 0.

Quarters: 22-19, 52-38, 77-58, 100-94

Hot Hapee battles RP squad in V-Go Cup

HAPEE TOOTHPASTE ISN'T THAT WORRIED over Fil-Am star Gabe Norwood's current inability to find his offensive groove in the PBL.

With a handful of veterans stepping up, the Complete Protectors feel they have what it takes to maintain their early lead when they take on the Harbour-RP Team in the V-Go Extreme Energy Drink Cup today.

"We want to prove that Hapee is not just about Gabe Norwood," said Hapee coach Jun Noel. "This is a team sport so everyone must contribute in their own way."

STANDINGS	W	L
Hapee	2	0
H. Centre	2	0
RP Team	3	1
Toyota	2	1
San Mig	1	1
Pharex	0	2
Mail and More	0	2
Bacchus	0	3

GAMES TODAY
(*The Arena, San Juan*)
2 p.m.—Harbour Centre vs Pharex
4 p.m.—RP Team vs Hapee

The Complete Protectors—who have been drawing strong performances from Larry Rodriguez, Reed Juntilla, Mark Borboran and Earn Saguindel—will vie for their third straight win against the Nationals at 4 p.m. at The Arena in San Juan.

Three-time champion Harbour Centre, tied with Hapee for the top spot at 2-0, goes up against newcomer Pharex at 2 p.m.

Still off-form, Norwood averaged only 6.5 points in Hapee's back-to-back wins against Mail and More and San Mig Coffee.

For national coach Junel Baculi, his concern has been his wards' lack of aggressiveness at the defensive end.

"We play good defense in the first half and then we relax in the second half," said Baculi.

Jasmine W. Payo

MARK
EERING
WKU

AGUILAR: All bulked-up and ready to rumble

Ex-Blue Eagle soars above Hilltoppers

By Jasmine W. Payo

WATCHING HIS TEAMMATES from the sidelines gave former Ateneo center Japeth Aguilar a close-up view of what he needed to do before playing his first official game for Western Kentucky University.

"It has been a big adjustment," Aguilar—the first Filipino-born player to sign up with a US NCAA Division I squad—said in an interview with WKU's official sports website.

"To be able to play Division I basketball, you need to be competitive. I have had to work on my physical strength and stamina since coming here."

The work has started to pay off.

The 6-foot-9 Aguilar has bulked up since his Final Four stint with the Blue Eagles in the 2005 UAAP men's basketball competition and it would have been difficult to recognize him as the once reedy player who once swatted away enemy shots for Ateneo.

But beyond bulking up, there was that other thing he needed to get used to.

"Life was much slower at home (in the Philippines), it was more laid back and relaxed," he said, adding how he had to get used to the pace of life in the US.

Aguilar will make an appearance before a bigger audience when the Hilltoppers see action in a nationally televised game against the prominent Gonzaga Bulldogs in the 2007 Carrs/Safeway Great Alaska Shootout.

The annual Shootout, one of the NCAA's premier early-season tournaments, will be aired on ESPN U on Nov. 22.

"I've learned to value working hard, and giving all I have in basketball as well as in academics," said Aguilar.

The 20-year-old cager added that sitting out for one year due to a US NCAA transfer rule turned out to be a blessing.

"Now I know what to expect because I was able to see what my teammates did and how the games are played here compared to [the way they are played] in the Philippines," said Aguilar.

The son of former PBA player Peter Aguilar initially made waves with his high-flying game and has been regarded as the university's slam-dunk champion. Once the NCAA tournament rolls around, however, he wants to be known for more than just that.

"I want to help the team as much as I can," he said. "I know that I can block shots on the defensive end, so if I can produce that way I can contribute to our success. I may be able to create on the offensive end too, but I need to practice more and gain experience so I don't make as many errors."

NBA

Prince ruins Heat home opener; Rockets whip Jazz

MIAMI—TAYSHAUN PRINCE scored a career-high 34 points and matched a career best 12 rebounds as Detroit used a big second-half run to beat Miami 91-80 on Thursday in the season opener for both teams.

"He was awesome," teammate Chauncey Billups told reporters. "He is just a tough matchup."

Billups added 19 points and 11 assists for the Pistons, whose 12-0 run over a six-minute stretch midway through the second half saw them take control.

Rasheed Wallace had 11 points for Detroit.

Ricky Davis scored 23 points for Miami, which dropped its opener for the second straight season. This one was closer than last year's 108-66 ring-night debacle against Chicago, but that will offer little consolation.

Shaquille O'Neal didn't score in the first half and finished with nine points for Miami, getting only six shots from the floor.

In Salt Lake City, Tracy McGrady scored 47 points and the Houston Rockets got a little revenge for last season's opening-round playoff loss by beating the Utah Jazz, 106-95.

Mike James added 15 points and Chuck Hayes had 13 rebounds for the Rockets, who improved to 2-0 under new coach Rick Adelman and have yet to play a home game.

Carlos Boozer had 30 points and 16 rebounds, and Mehmet Okur finished with 16 points and 10 boards for Utah, but after dominating the first quarter the Jazz tapered off in the second and never recovered.

In Seattle, Amare Stoudemire had 23 points and 11 rebounds as the Phoenix Suns rallied past the SuperSonics, 106-99.

Steve Nash had 18 points and 12 assists, while veteran Grant Hill added 13 points, six rebounds and five assists in his Suns debut.

Seattle's Kevin Durant, the second overall pick, had 27 points. *AP*

UDONIS Haslem (right) and the Heat try—but fail—to stop Tayshaun Prince and the Pistons. REUTERS

Chicago not trading for Kobe, says GM

EL SEGUNDO, CALIFORNIA—CHICAGO Bulls general manager John Paxson put an emphatic end to weeks of rumors and speculation with one definitive statement Thursday.

He said Kobe Bryant would not be traded from the Lakers to the Bulls anytime soon.

"There's not a deal done," Paxson told reporters in Chicago. "There's not going to be a deal done. All the things that were out there were really unfair to all of us who were trying to do our jobs. The misinformation I think gets in the way of the process. It's just such a complicated thing and we kind of put it to rest now."

The rumor mill was cranked up to full speed Wednesday with reports that the Lakers, Bulls and Sacramento Kings had almost completed a three-team trade.

Bryant would have ended up in Chicago in that scenario and the Lakers would have received Ben Wallace from the Bulls and Ron Artest from the Kings.

What's more, a story on ESPN.com suggested the Bulls were willing to include budding superstar Luol Deng in a deal for Bryant. However, Bryant was against such a deal because he did not wish to be dealt to a team gutted by the trade.

Bryant is the only player in the NBA whose contract includes a no-trade clause.

He demanded to be traded during a series of radio appearances in May, voicing his frustrations over the Lakers' first-round playoff ouster.

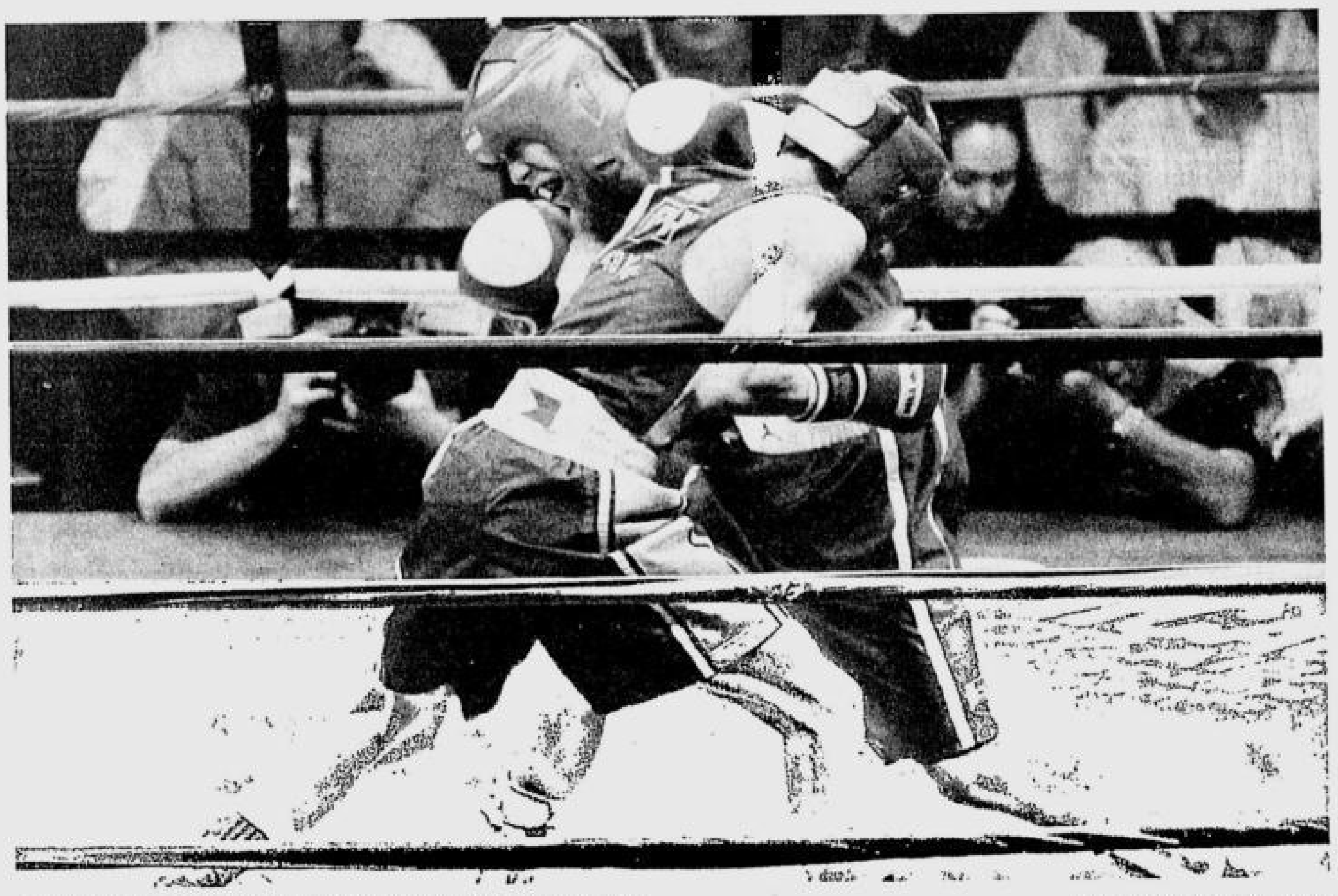
The Lakers have attempted to grant his wish. The Bulls were the most aggressive suitors, Lakers coach Phil Jackson confirmed earlier this week.

Bryant said Thursday he has kept up with the trade talk if only to keep his teammates abreast of the developments. *NYT News Service*

WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Harry stuns US pug, gains semis

By Dennis U. Eroa
Inquirer Libre



HARRY Tañamor (left) mixes it up with American Luis Yanez. MANNY ZAMBRANO/CONTRIBUTOR

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS—LIGHT-FLYweight Harry Tañamor whipped up a storm as he stunned American wonder Luis Yanez, 17-7, to barge into the International Amateur Boxing Association World Boxing Championships semifinals Thursday at the University of Illinois-Chicago Pavilion here.

The shocker of a win assured Tañamor, the remaining member of the original seven-man RP-PLDT-Smart boxing team still in contention, of the bronze medal in this biennial slugfest serving as a qualifying tournament for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Tañamor, an Army sergeant, also won the bronze medals during the 2001 and 2003 World Championships held in Belfast, Ireland, and Bangkok, Thailand, respectively.

But his victory over the 19-year-old ace from Duncanville, Texas was the sweetest in a career that already included stints in the Olympics, Southeast Asian Games and the Asian Games.

"This is a night to remember," said Tañamor. "I'll never forget this one."

Tañamor, who is the most senior member of the national team at 29, added that he was motivated by his desire to avenge the setback suffered by close friend and roommate Violito Payla at the hands of Rau'shee Warren during the round of 16 last Wednesday.

To make the gold-medal match, Tañamor, a native of Zamboanga City, must hurdle Thai sensation Anmat Ruenroeng in the semifinals slated Friday evening. Ruenroeng, who took over the mantle by veteran and long-time Tañamor rival Suban Pannon, trashed Armenian Danielyan Hovhannes, 18-6, in another quarterfinal showdown.

Using his speed and movement, Tañamor came out on fire against Yanez, the reigning Pan American Games titlist. The Filipino pug piled up points with body blows against the startled Yanez to take a commanding 12-5 lead halfway through the bout witnessed by a sizeable crowd which included a spirited group of Filipinos.

Slick and perfect with his timing, Tañamor opened a huge, 15-5 lead in the third round as Yanez became desperate.

"When I went ahead, I knew that Yanez would have trouble finding his rhythm and by the end of the second round, I was in total control of the match," said Tañamor, who dedicated his victory to boxing godfather Manny V. Pangilinan, chair of PLDT-Smart.

Egged on by the crowd, Yanez tried to pin down Tañamor, but the Filipino skirted around the ring to preserve the victory.

"Harry boxed perfectly. He had the experience and the skills to neutralize Yanez," said head coach Patricio Gaspi. Gaspi noted that Tañamor's hit and run tactic prevented Yanez from doing much damage.

But even with the loss, Yanez had already booked a slot to Beijing by virtue of making it this far in the tournament. He joins Tañamor, Ruenroeng, Hovhannes and four other boxers to the Olympics. Others who qualified in light-flyweight class are Ukraine's Georgiy Chygayev, France's Nordine Oubaali, Ireland's Patrick Barnes and defending champion Zou Shiming.

Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines Manny T. Lopez said the victory gave credence to the decision of the association to field Tañamor despite his age.

"I, for one, believe that Harry remains deadly as ever," Lopez said. "He is in great shape as proven by his victory. [We are] proud of Harry's achievement."

Meanwhile, the RP-PLDT-Smart team will fly to San Francisco on Sunday to compete in an invitational tournament spearheaded by Filipino-American community leaders.

Bantamweight Joan Tipon, featherweight Charly Suarez, light-welterweight Delfin Boholst, welterweight Willie Lopez and flyweight Violito Payla are expected to see action in the two-day boxing extravaganza.

Que drops to 9th place after a 73

SINGAPORE—THE PHILIPPINES' Angelo Que dropped from solo fourth place to joint ninth after a 73 in the second round of the $4-million Singapore Open Friday.

Que fell to six strokes off US Open champion Angel Cabrera, who fired a sizzling 63 even as defending champion Adam Scott ominously made his charge up the leaderboard.

The burly Argentine reeled in nine birdies against a lone bogey at the Sentosa Golf Club's Serapong Course to lead by two shots from little-known American Jin Park, who returned a 70 to go with his opening round 66.

Cabrera was eight-under par for the day and the tournament on 134 following hasty overnight repairs to his driver after the head worked its way loose on Thursday.

But world number four Ernie Els had a horror day and is in danger of missing the cut. His fate will be decided on Saturday with 37 players unable to finish the round due to bad light.

Australian world number four Scott, who is gunning for a third consecutive Singapore victory, holed four birdies on the back nine to sit in third on five under.

Juvic Pagunsan improved from 24th place to joint 19th with another even-par round.

But Mars Pucay, who was in joint 11th place after an opening-round 70, tumbled to 24th spot in a tie with eight others as he went two-over par.

Anthony Fernando, also in 11th place after the first round, did not finish his round.

England's Lee Westwood, who has six top-10 finishes in his last seven events, stroked a 67 to be joint fourth with little-known Australian Gavin Flint.

World number two Phil Mickelson struggled to match his exploits on day one and ended on two under, six behind Cabrera in a group that also includes KJ Choi and Vijay Singh. *AP, Asian Tour News*

Thai Kesinee powers Lady Eagles anew

By Romina S. Austria

NERIZA Bautista (right) delivers 21 points for Adamson. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

THAI IMPORT LITHAWAT KESINEE DELIVered another powerful show to tow Ateneo past Adamson, 25-19, 21-25, 25-21, 25-21, and give the Lady Eagles the second semifinal berth in the 2007 Shakey's V-League women's volleyball second conference at The Arena in San Juan yesterday.

Kesinee uncorked another 30-plus point performance spiked with 26 kills as the two-time Southeast Asian Games campaigner led the Lady Eagles to their fourth win in five games.

The victory gave Ateneo the second semis seat, following unbeaten San Sebastian College's entry last Tuesday.

The loss dropped Adamson to fourth place with a 3-2 mark.

In the second game, Lyceum remained in the hunt for one of the three remaining semis slots after besting La Salle in five sets, 25-23, 25-21, 22-25, 20-25, 15-11.

Needing to sweep their last three matches to force at least a playoff, the Lady Pirates leaned on Sherrilyn Carrillo, Jane Jarin and Beverly Boto who combined for 46 points.

It was the Lady Pirates' first win after four losses while handing the Lady Archers, whom they beat in the battle for third place last conference, a 1-3 card.

Charo Soriano played true to form for Ateneo and delivered 14 attacks to back up Kesinee, who also showed her defensive prowess with nine blocks.

Bea Pascual, Denise Acevedo, Patricia Taganas and Karla Bello combined for 22 points for the Lady Eagles, who proved steadier in the one hour, 40-minute encounter.

Guest player Neriza Bautista dished out a 21-point job for Adamson, which also drew 14 points from Rissa Laguilles and 10 points from Angela Benting.

University of Santo Tomas and Adamson clash at 5 p.m. tomorrow for the third semis berth. Letran is out of the running following its fifth consecutive loss Tuesday.

STANDINGS	W	L
SSC	4	0
Ateneo	4	1
UST	3	1
Adamson	3	2
FEU	2	2
La Salle	1	3
Lyceum	1	4
Letran	0	5

GAMES TOMORROW
(*The Arena*)
3 p.m.—Letran vs Lyceum
5 p.m.—UST vs Adamson

Obosa rules Hitachi Criterium Dagupan leg

VETERAN TOUR CAMPAIGNer Erickson Obosa broke away from a four-way scramble to the finish to rule the Elite Open Pro division of the Hitachi National Criterium Grand Prix in Dagupan City last weekend.

Carrying the colors of Pitaki Boyz, Obosa rode furiously in the last 50 meters to beat teammate Adrian Malanum to the finish line in front of the famed Matutina Restaurant.

Tarlac pride Anthony Miranda pedaled to solo third place in the race dubbed the Mayor Alipio Fernandez Jr. Cup.

Grizzled rider Ruel Gendraño of the Excellent Jonchi Cycling team topped the Elite Masters division, with Hubert Hubs and Wheels teammates Hector Padilla and Oscar Espiritu settling for second and third, respectively. On the other hand, Sherwin Carrera of the Pitaki Boyz took sprint honors.

Alonso ends 'controversial' stint with McLaren

MADRID, SPAIN—FORMER TWO-TIME Formula One champion Fernando Alonso has left the McLaren team, Spanish media reported Friday.

Spanish daily El Mundo reported on its Web site (www.elmundo.es) that Alonso, who joined the team at the start of this year, and McLaren had confirmed the split.

The Spaniard had two years left on his contract with the British-based team. McLaren had no immediate comment.

Spanish media reported that Alonso's representative Luis Garcia Abad and a lawyer had negotiated the 26-year-old's departure in talks at the McLaren headquarters in Woking on Thursday and Friday morning.

Abad reached a deal with McLaren team chief Ron Dennis under which the driver does not have to pay anything for rescinding his contract with the Mercedes-powered team, Europa Press reported.

Alonso finished the season in third place tied on points with rookie teammate Lewis Hamilton.

The 26-year-old Spaniard has had a controversial year with McLaren which has seen him at loggerheads with Dennis and Hamilton for much of the season and it had been widely expected he would move on.

His former employers at Renault have expressed their interest in taking him back, but Marca said Alonso might prefer to sign up for a smaller team with a view to eventually finding an opening at Ferrari.

Alonso saw his hopes of winning a third straight world title vanish in the final Grand Prix of the season in Brazil last month with Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen taking the prize away from him and teammate Hamilton. *Reuters, AP, AFP*

Pinoy earns chance to carry Beijing Olympics torch

TORRES

BEIJING—A FILIPINO MARKETING manager and an American who works with Chinese orphans are among eight foreigners living in China who have been picked to join the 2008 Beijing Olympic torch relay across the country, organizers said Friday.

Filipino Marcos Antonio Torres, a marketing manager in Beijing, launched an online campaign to appeal for votes. He said it made him a celebrity in his homeland.

"It started out with one e-mail which I forwarded to people in my address book. After that, I wrote a blog, and then a day or two after there were over 1,000 blogs about my appeal," he told The Associated Press.

"Then I went to the Philippines for national holidays and I was invited by TV and radio. In fact, it wasn't just any TV and radio shows. I appeared on the No. 1 radio station in the Philippines," he said.

American Jenny Bowen, from San Francisco, lives in Beijing and runs a foundation to help Chinese orphans. The foundation's Hong Kong office said she was in the United States and not immediately available for comment.

The runners were picked from among 262 applicants in a contest organized by Chinese computer maker and Olympic sponsor Lenovo Group and the government newspaper China Daily. Each will carry the torch for 200 meters on Chinese soil. The other winners come from India, Venezuela, Germany, Russia, Japan and Colombia.

Other winners:

—Meena Barot, from India, a business manager in the northern Chinese city of Shijiazhuang.

—Yoshitoshi Mizuya, from Nagano, Japan, chairman of a Beijing-based computer company.

—Luis Hong-Sanchez, from Colombia, a student in the southern Chinese city of Zhuhai.

—Yury Ilyakhin, from Moscow, general manager of a Beijing information technology company.

—Deirdre Smyth, who has dual British-Venezuelan nationality, a graphic designer in Beijing.

—Werner Ebel, from Berlin, a civil engineer in the central Chinese city of Zhengzhou. *AP*

These days, players simply 'jump' past venerable Bata

EFREN "Bata" Reyes' ability to tuck the cue ball into difficult corners no longer sends opponents shivering. PDI PHOTO

By Musong R. Castillo

ASIDE FROM FATHER TIME TELLING him that he's lost some of the touch that made him a Hall of Famer, Efren "Bata" Reyes believes that one very accepted piece of equipment has given the other players an advantage over him—the jump cue.

"I was really unbeatable in the 1980s," Reyes, 53 and a grandfather to a girl and a boy, told a handful of scribes in Filipino yesterday during the most recent launch of the 2007 World Pool Championships.

"That was because I can play any safety shot and give my opponents a hard time," Reyes, the 1999 world champ, added. "At this day and age, no amount of cover (on the cue ball) can give you an advantage, because players can just jump the balls and hit their targets."

Reyes, who is ruing the legalization of the jump cue in the last decade, is one of 15 Filipinos entered in the elite 128-man field vying for $400,000 in prize money in the event that starts today at the Araneta Coliseum.

And he didn't talk too brightly of his chances against the best of the world.

He actually seemed to have found a way to downplay his chances the way he did last year, when he went on to lose in the semifinals to eventual champion and countryman Ronnie Alcano.

"Everyone has a chance of winning, because everyone has been playing regularly and are on the top of their game," Reyes, who said he aches all over as a sign of old age, continued.

"I feel double the pressure I felt last year, because everyone—Filipinos included—wants a piece of me."

Reyes said that it would be very important to win his first match, just to ease some of the pressure off. He also said that veterans like him don't have much of an advantage in the event since the phases are very short.

"I'd much prefer for the elimination round to be race-to-21 affairs instead of race-to-9," he said. "And if I don't win my first match, then it's double the pressure when I play again."

The enigmatic man known all over the globe as "The Magician" debuts against Japanese qualifier Kenichi Uchigaki, one of seven foreigners he has in his group, in the 10:30 a.m. session.

Asked by someone if he still had the game to contend with the world's best, arthritic fingers notwithstanding, Reyes put it in the right perspective: "Yes, I still have the game, but the others also have their games, too, and believe me, they're all good."

Morris, Chamat lead world's bid vs RP cue stars

RODNEY MORRIS AND MARcus Chamat will spearhead the International team in the Kabayan World 9-Ball Challenge: Philippines vs. Rest of the World set Nov. 12-13 at the Filipiniana Hotel in Calapan City in Oriental Mindoro.

Morris and Chamat are also seeing action in the World Pool Championships beginning today at the Araneta Coliseum.

"Any Filipino professional cue artist is hard to beat," said Morris, a former US Open and World Pool League champion. "But nobody's unbeatable in this game."

Chamat, who is married to a Filipina, is a veteran of several team competitions, being a mainstay of Team Europe in the Mosconi Cup.

He won the World Summit of Pool in 2005, a year after stopping Marlon Manalo in the quarterfinals of the World Pool Championship in Taipei.

He will meet Manalo anew in Calapan City. The snooker ace will be the chief mate of reigning world champion Ronnie Alcano in the Team Philippines, which also includes 2006 Asian Games gold medalist Antonio Gabica, 1998 Asian Games gold medalist Gandy Valle and Manny Pacquiao International 9-Ball Open winner Jeffrey De Luna.

The other players in the International team are Darren Appleton of England, Karl Boyes of the United Kingdom and John Higgins of Scotland.

Appleton is the world's top ranked English 8-Ball Pool player while Boyes is the 2004 World Cup singles champion.

Higgins, on the other hand, is a legend in snooker with three world titles.

The winning team will receive $20,000 while the losing team will go home with $10,000.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

Acaba leads Negros pool qualifiers

VETERAN CAMPAIGNER AND BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER CONGRESS of the Philippines (BSCP) founding president Edgar "Malabon" Acaba trounced Florencio Banar, 7-5, to join five others in the main draw of the Negros Oriental International 9-Ball Championships at the AMF Puyat Billiard Hall in Libis, Quezon City. Aside from Acaba, the main draw on Nov. 14-17 at the Dumaguete Convention Center includes Elvis Calasang, Elmer Haya, Leonardo Didal, Naoyuki Oi of Japan and Chung Chien-te of Taiwan. Efren" Bata" Reyes, Francisco "Django" Bustamante, Alex Pagulayan, Ronato Alcano, Dennis Orcollo, Warren Kiamco, Lee Vann Corteza and Ramil Gallego have been seeded. The four-day event offers a total pot prize of $61,400, with the champion getting $20,000 while the runner-up will settle for $10,000.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

WORLD POOL CHAMPIONSHIP

Brash Finn declares title race wide open

By Musong R. Castillo

MIKA IMMONEN, THE FINN WHO WAS world champion in 2001, was quite bold in his assessment on who the man to beat would be when the World Pool Championships open today.

"Aside from myself, without a doubt, it would have to be Shane Van Boening," Immonen told the INQUIRER yesterday during the final launch of the $400,000 event that gets off the ground at the Araneta Coliseum this morning.

"He has been so hot and on such a roll that it would be interesting to see how he sustains it," Immonen, one of several great names seeing action, added. "It's still be a wide-open race, but Shane will definitely be taking great form (into the tournament)."

Van Boening's name actually surfaced in many interviews yesterday, including those from defending champion Ronnie Alcano and Efren "Bata" Reyes of the Philippines.

The reigning US Open champion has been having a great year, to say the least, as he seeks to win a third major title after also claiming the World 10-ball title and finishing second in the World Summit of Pool and the BCA Open in May.

Boening, who doesn't see action until Tuesday, beat Alcano in the US Open Finals.

"I don't think there's any clear favorite here," said Boening, a 24-year-old native of Sioux Falls in South Dakota who wears a hearing aid and talks with a slight slur. "Because the best players in the world are here and you can't take anyone lightly."

IN HIS book, Mika Immonen lists himself as among the favorites. PDI PHOTO

Alcano, who won last year by nipping Reyes first and then humbling German Ralf Souquet in the Finals, debuts against Saeed Al-Mutawa of the United Arab Emirates in one of the 10:30 a.m. matches.

Reyes, whose win here in 1999 sparked a billiards boom in the country, also gets going at 10:30 a.m. against Japanese qualifier Kenichi Uchigaki in Group 6 action, an assignment he hopes to win handily to take the jitters away.

"It would be very hard, but I will try my best for my country," Alcano told the conference in Filipino. Alcano's goal is to also become the first player in the history of the event to win it two years straight.

"I think I have a fairly easy group, but you never can tell," he added. "All of them know how to play, and with the winner's break format, you can never be too sure."

There will be a total of 128 players seeing action and most eyes have been fixed on the Taiwanese delegation, led by former champion Wu Chia-ching, and the Filipinos until those in the know named Van Boening as the favorite.

"But this will be the first time that he plays in Asia," Immonen said.

Wu, who was the youngest to win this event at 16 in 2005, and 28-year-old Yang Chin-shun have been named by the Taiwanese interpreter as the best in their team, even if veteran and two-time winner Chao Fong-pao is also entered.

Brazilians end Ilustre, Pascua beach run

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINES' BEACH VOLleyball bets Heidi Ilustre and Diane Pascua bumped into and lost to heavyweight Brazilian spikers to settle for 17th place in the Thailand Beach Volleyball Open, the last leg of the 2007 World Tour, in Phuket.

The RP pair, trying to beat a path to the 2008 Beijing Games, fished 120 points out of the tournament and is expected to surge into the provisional Olympic list which qualifies the world's top 24.

Presently at No. 41 in the world, the Filipinos bowed to the power-hitting tandem of heavily favored Brazilian sisters Carolina and Ma. Cristina Salgado, 21-14, 22-20.

They won over Cuba, 23-21, 19-21, 15-11, in the main draw last Thursday to stay alive after absorbing a 21-19, 18-21, 8-15 defeat at the hands of another Brazilian pair, fifth-seeded Renata and Talita, 21-19, 18-21, 8-15, earlier that day.

Up next is a Hong Kong Challenger event which will serve as final tune-up before Pascua and Ilustre compete in the Southeast Asian Games in Thailand in December.

The Philippines bagged the bronze during the 2005 SEAG behind two Thai teams, but the RP pair is confident their stints in the World Tour prepared them enough to win the gold medal.

Ilustre and Pascua were also bronze medalists during the 2006 Doha Asian Games.

They still have enough chances of barging into the Olympic round next year playing in the eight legs of the World Tour prior to the Olympics in August.

At present, the country has six athletes assured of Olympic slots: Swimmers Miguel Molina, Ryan Arabejo and JB Walsh, taekwondo's Tshomlee Go, boxer Harry Tañamor and archer Mark Javier.

RP gets three shots at muay thai gold

MACAU—THE PHILIPPINES SENT A THIRD fighter into the gold medal rounds of muay thai late Thursday and made a magnanimous gesture early Friday by withdrawing its chance for a fourth gold in the Macau 2nd Asian Indoor Games.

Light welterweight Ruben Zumido downed Sengchanh Sivongsa of Laos via unanimous decision to earn the right to face Metta Khetnok of Thailand, also a unanimous decision winner over Mustapha Yaghmour of Lebanon, in the finals set Saturday.

Zumido's victory gave the Philippines three chances at the gold medal, which earlier seemed slow in coming.

A bronze from Catherine Perena in women's individual rapid chess has provided the only bright mark for the Philippines so far in the medal tally since Saturday.

While a late medal rush is expected by the Philippines in the final day Saturday, the hoop sepak takraw team made official its bronze medal contribution with a 500-plus performance. The Philippines tied Indonesia for the bronze.

"That's it for us, but it was a worthy bronze," Philippine Amateur Sepak Takraw Association (Pasta) president Mario Tanchanco said.

Roland Claro and Brent Velasco also scored highly impressive victories early Thursday with Velasco beating a bloodied Bounma Vongchampa of Laos via a third round knockout in their bantamweight semifinal fight.

Velasco will face Supachai Payunhan of Thailand, who beat Cham Kai Chung of Hong Kong in the other semifinal bout.

Claro, meanwhile, defeated Albert Kujur of India via unanimous decision in the flyweight semifinals and will face Chan Kai Tik of Hong Kong, winner over Artit Mennoi of Thailand in their semis pairing.

The triple victories prompted muay head of delegation Col. Antonio Mendoza to spare protest committee chair Robert Valdez, a Filipino, from instigating further controversy that could arise from the Philippines' protest against Zaldy Laruan's loss to Thai bet Kwang Khwang in the semifinals.

Jury notes showed Laruan a 10-9 winner over the Thai fighter but a five-man board of judges favored Khwang with a unanimous decision. The Philippines withdrew the protest.

Valdez, also the president of Muay Association of the Philippines (MAP), would have been caught in a tight space with the Philippine protest.

SPORTSWATCH

P15-M 'Bakbakan' gets going today

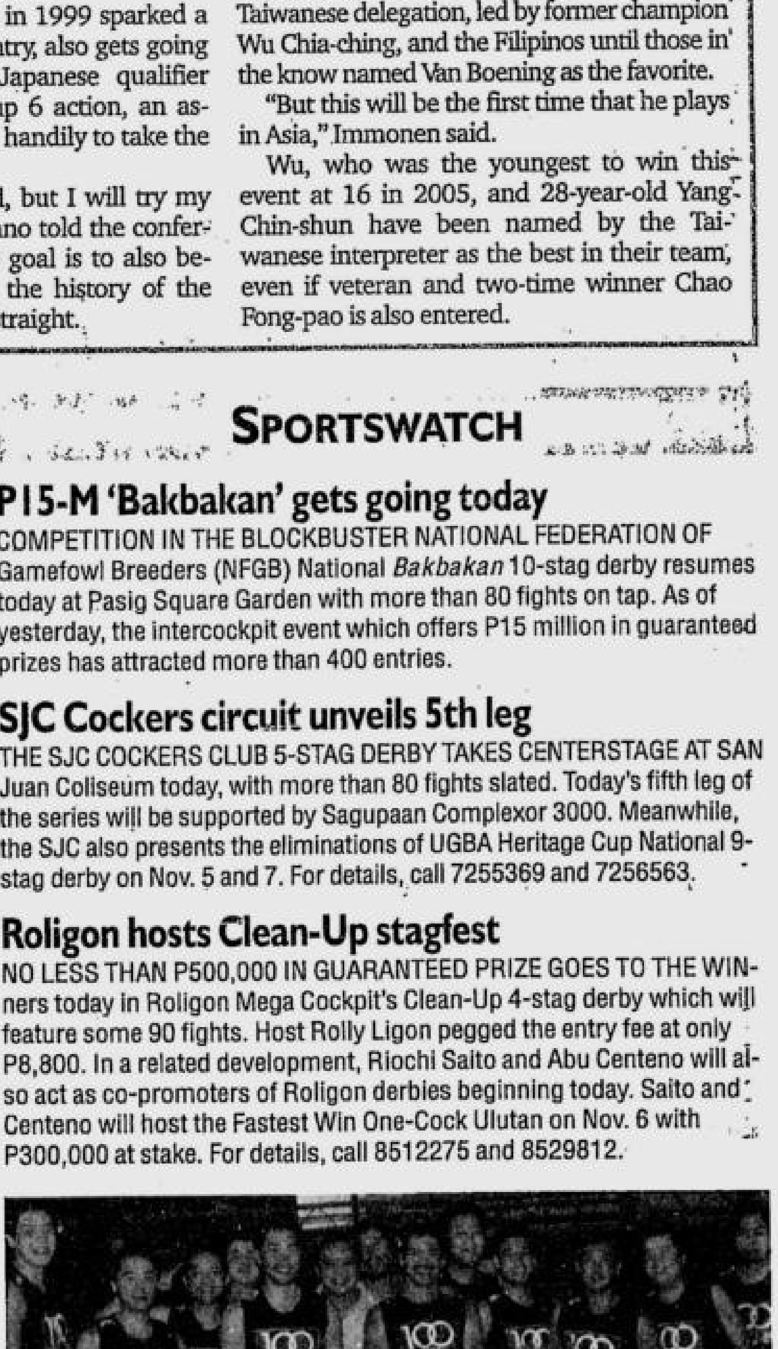
COMPETITION IN THE BLOCKBUSTER NATIONAL FEDERATION OF Gamefowl Breeders (NFGB) National *Bakbakan* 10-stag derby resumes today at Pasig Square Garden with more than 80 fights on tap. As of yesterday, the intercockpit event which offers P15 million in guaranteed prizes has attracted more than 400 entries.

SJC Cockers circuit unveils 5th leg

THE SJC COCKERS CLUB 5-STAG DERBY TAKES CENTERSTAGE AT SAN Juan Coliseum today, with more than 80 fights slated. Today's fifth leg of the series will be supported by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Meanwhile, the SJC also presents the eliminations of UGBA Heritage Cup National 9-stag derby on Nov. 5 and 7. For details, call 7255369 and 7256563.

Roligon hosts Clean-Up stagfest

NO LESS THAN P500,000 IN GUARANTEED PRIZE GOES TO THE WINners today in Roligon Mega Cockpit's Clean-Up 4-stag derby which will feature some 90 fights. Host Rolly Ligon pegged the entry fee at only P8,800. In a related development, Riochi Saito and Abu Centeno will also act as co-promoters of Roligon derbies beginning today. Saito and Centeno will host the Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan on Nov. 6 with P300,000 at stake. For details, call 8512275 and 8529812.



MEMBERS and officials of the 100 Plus basketball team are all smiles after beating Mighty Menthols, 72-66, in the XABL (Xavier Alumni Basketball League) finals at the Xavier School gym to emerge champion for the third time in four tournaments.

SPORTS

Pacquiao to welcome WBC gab participants

MANNY PACQUIAO WILL WELCOME PARTICIPANTS TO THE 45TH World Boxing Council (WBC) Convention set Nov. 11-17 at the Manila Hotel. Guests will include no less than WBC president Mauricio Sulaiman, who is scheduled to arrive in the country on Thursday.

MCC chess November edition starts today

THE NOVEMBER EDITION OF THE MCC 1850 BELOW ACTIVE CHESS reels off at 11 a.m. today and the Executive 1900 below blitz at 1:30 p.m. tomorrow at the upper 2F of St. Francis Square in Mandaluyong City. Both one-day events will award P4,000 to the champions. For details, call 8268560.

Hingis tests positive for cocaine, retires

ZURICH, SWITZERLAND—MARTINA Hingis said Thursday she has been accused of testing positive for cocaine at Wimbledon, and then announced her retirement from professional tennis.

Hingis, a five-time Grand Slam champion and former Wimbledon winner, denied using cocaine.

"I find this accusation so horrendous, so monstrous that I've decided to confront it head on by talking to the press," she said. "I am frustrated and angry. I believe that I am absolutely 100 percent innocent."

Her voice broke as she fought back tears in reading the statement.

The 27-year-old Swiss player lost in the third round at Wimbledon to Laura Granville, 6-4, 6-2.

Hingis said the positive test led to her retirement because she doesn't want to spend years fighting the case. Mario Widmer, Hingis' manager, said he did not know why she waited until now to make the announcement.

Hingis returned to the sport two years ago after a four-year absence because of injuries.

She won three straight Australian Open titles from 1997-99, and Wimbledon and the US Open championships in 1997. She came within one match of winning the Grand Slam in 1997, losing only in the French Open final.

On March 31, 1997, Hingis became the youngest female player ever to lead the world rankings. She was 16 years, 6 months and 1 day at the time. She is currently ranked No. 19.

Hingis, who lost in the third round of the US Open, hasn't played since her second-round loss to Peng Shuai of China, 7-5, 6-1, in Beijing on Sept. 19.

Former top-ranked player Mats Wilander and Karel Novacek had positive tests for cocaine at the 1995 French Open. Both were banned for three months and ordered to return prize money and forfeit rankings points.

Hingis said she was accused by "an outsource testing company" of taking cocaine during Wimbledon. She said she was "shocked and appalled" when notified that her urine sample came back positive.

"They say that cocaine increases self-confidence and creates a type of euphoria," she said in a statement. "I don't know. I only know that if I were to try to hit the ball while in any state of euphoria, it simply wouldn't work.

"I would think that it would be impossible for anyone to maintain the coordination required to play top class tennis while under the influence of drugs. And I know one other thing—I would personally be terrified of taking drugs."

Hingis said she later underwent a privately arranged hair test which came back negative for cocaine. The official backup "B" sample test on her Wimbledon urine sample, however, tested positive for the drug.

Hingis said she hired an attorney who found "various inconsistencies" with the urine sample taken during Wimbledon.

"I have no desire to spend the next several years of my life reduced to fighting against the doping officials," she said. "The fact is that it is more and more difficult for me, physically, to keep playing at the top of the game.

"And frankly, accusations such as these don't exactly provide me with motivation to even make another attempt to do so." *AP*

HINGIS: Shocked, appalled, angry and frustrated AFP

Nalbandian boots out Federer again

DAVID Nalbandian (left) sends off Roger Federer anew. AFP

PARIS—DAVID NALBANDIAN BEAT ROGER Federer for the second time in less than two weeks on Thursday, earning a 6-4, 7-6 (3) victory in the third round of the Paris Masters.

The result evened the series between the two 8-8 and ended Federer's streak of reaching the final in eight straight tournaments—going back to May.

"It's not easy being aggressive against him when you're 10 feet behind the baseline," said Federer, who lost to the Argentine in the final of the Madrid Masters on Oct. 21.

"He's got a phenomenal backhand and can dictate play from both sides," said Federer, who lost for the eighth time this season. Guillermo Canas and Rafael Nadal also have beaten Federer twice each while Novak Djokovic and Filippo Volandri also have beaten the Swiss star.

"I wish conditions were a bit faster because indoors is supposed to be fast," Federer said. "Not here, I guess."

Nalbandian didn't complain.

"Well, it's different," Nalbandian said. "Over there (in Madrid) it's a little faster."

He next plays David Ferrer, who advanced after beating 12th-seeded Tomas Berdych 6-4, 6-2. After beating Federer in Madrid, Nalbandian was eliminated in the first round of last week's event in Basel, Switzerland. *AP*

Overall winner* will be sent to San Francisco** to participate in the SF Urbanathlon in April 2008.

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4th place - Gift pack + medal	4th place - Gift pack + medal	4th place - Gift pack + medal
5th place - Gift pack + medal	5th place - Gift pack + medal	5th place - Gift pack + medal

Overall winner* will be sent to San Francisco** to participate in the SF Urbanathlon on April 2008. Men's Health will provide airfare and hotel accommodation for the winner.

*Overall winner is the person who crosses the line first regardless if he or she joined as an individual or as a member of a team.
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Quarter-point cut in BSP rates seen

Monetary Board to meet on Nov. 15

By Doris C. Dumlao

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GIANT CITIGROUP sees the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas further slashing its benchmark interest rates by 25 basis points during its policy-making Monetary Board's Nov. 15 meeting.

In a recent commentary, Citigroup's Philippine economist Jun Trinidad, said: "The (prevailing) high real interest rate setting remains a drag to the real economy."

The BSP slashed its overnight rates for the second time this year in October to 5.75 percent for overnight borrowing and 7.75 percent for overnight lending.

"Further policy rate easing to a record nominal low of 5.5 percent (for overnight borrowing) will help lower real interest rates—a major deterrent to investment spending and growth," Trinidad said.

"We expect the rate cutting cycle to end this quarter unless inflation risk surprises further on the downside," he said.

Citigroup sees a four-quarter lag before high interest rates take their toll on the real economy, noting that the high real interest rate setting had been in place since the first half of this year.

"The muted risk of excess liquidity and strong currency pass-through should sustain benign inflation conditions despite upbeat growth momentum," Trinidad said.

Lackluster cost-push pressures alongside sharply decelerating broad money growth and modest wage adjustments, he said, would provide scope for the Monetary Board to follow through with another quarter-point rate cut in November following its 25 basis-point policy rate cut last Oct. 4.

Despite the seasonal pressure for slightly higher inflation risk in the fourth quarter due to Christmas retail spending as well as oil price pressure, Citigroup sees the monthly inflation remaining well below 3 percent, comparing favorably with the government's annual inflation commitment of 4-5 percent.

But while Citigroup sees the BSP cutting its rates anew this month, the financial giant said this could be the final phase of the BSP's interest rate-easing cycle.

QUARTER-POINT/ B2

RP seeks bigger grant from US

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINES HAS REITERATED its request for the US government to increase the grant coming from Millennium Challenge Corp. (MCC) to $300 million by next year.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the request was made at the sidelines of the 40th International Monetary Fund and World Bank Annual Meetings held last Oct. 19-22 in Washington.

The Philippines received $21 million in grant from the MCC last year. The amount of grant was consistent with the country's acceptance into the "threshold" category of recipient countries.

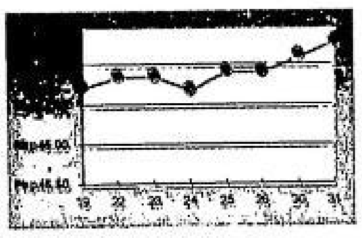
The MCC provides grants to qualified countries once every two years. Teves said the Department of Finance was hoping that the Philippines would graduate to the "compact" level by next year to avail itself of the corresponding $300-million grant.

RP SEEKS/ B3

IN THIS ISSUE
■ PNOC-EC to give up control over projects /B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



OCTOBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

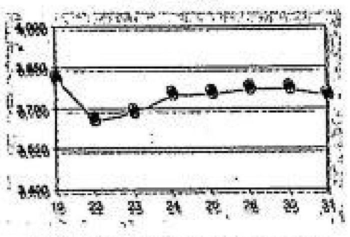
₱43.675 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 31, 2007

STOCK MARKET

Asian stocks slide

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX
OCTOBER



(See stock market report on Page B2)

HONG KONG—ASIAN STOCKS slid more than 2 percent yesterday led by financial shares after broker downgrades of US banking giant Citigroup sparked worries about further fallouts from credit market problems.

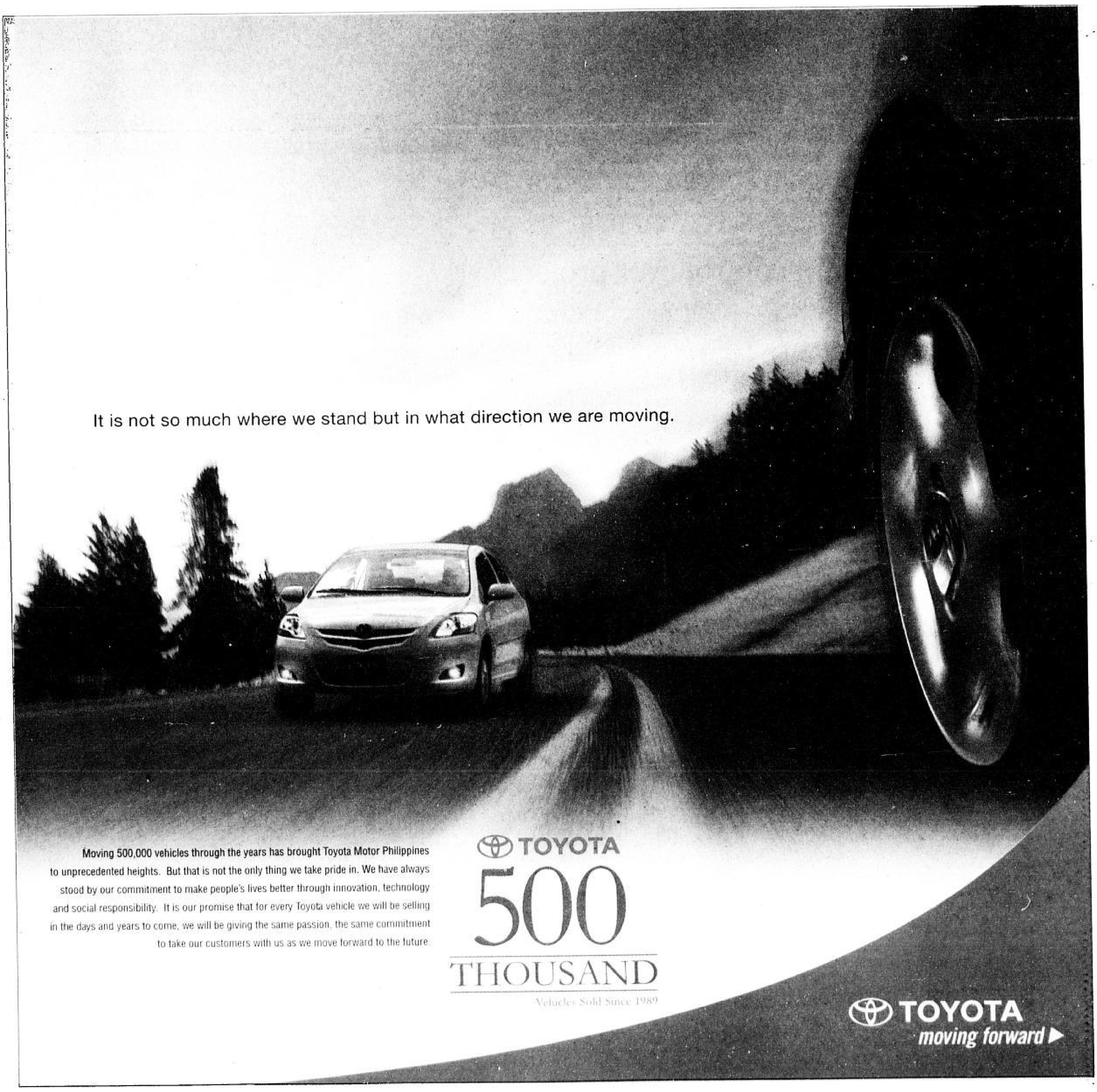
Those concerns dampened appetite for riskier assets, boosting safe-haven Japanese government bonds and were seen weighing on European stocks, where financial bookmakers are expecting falls of close to 1 percent for the three major European stock indexes.

Caution ahead of the influential US employment report due later in the day kept the low-yielding yen from making further substantial headway and helped oil and gold steady from overnight falls.

Tokyo's Nikkei average ended 2.1 percent lower, while MSCI's measure of other Asia Pacific stocks shed 2.4 percent.

Just a day earlier, the MSCI index touched an all-time high be-

ASIAN/ B3



It is not so much where we stand but in what direction we are moving.
TOYOTA
500
THOUSAND
Vehicles Sold Since 1989
TOYOTA
moving forward ▶

Moving 500,000 vehicles through the years has brought Toyota Motor Philippines to unprecedented heights. But that is not the only thing we take pride in. We have always stood by our commitment to make people's lives better through innovation, technology and social responsibility. It is our promise that for every Toyota vehicle we will be selling in the days and years to come, we will be giving the same passion, the same commitment to take our customers with us as we move forward to the future.

Sta. Lucia Realty proposes asset-shares swap with SLLI

Cainta mall in exchange for P4B worth of holding firm's shares

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

MALL AND PROPERTY DEVELOPER STA. Lucia Realty & Development Inc. is proposing to transfer the ownership of its P4.8-billion mall in Cainta to listed holding firm and affiliate Zipporah Realty Holdings Inc. in exchange for the latter's shares.

The proposed asset-shares swap is seen paving the way for a possible backdoor listing of Sta. Lucia Realty through the listed holding firm, industry sources said.

Zipporah, which has been renamed Sta. Lucia Land Inc. (SLLI), is currently 20.9-percent owned by Sta. Lucia Realty, according to on an ownership report as of Sept. 30 earlier filed with the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE).

Last July 16, SLLI shareholders approved the increase in the authorized capital stock of the company from P2 billion to P16 billion, and the subscription by Sta. Lucia Realty of P10 billion out of the P14 billion in additional capital.

Sta. Lucia Realty plans to pay SLLI for the subscription with certain assets, including the mall. In exchange, sources said, Sta. Lucia Realty will get SLLI shares worth about P4 billion.

The sources said the effect of the capital increase and subscription on Sta. Lucia Realty's stake in SLLI has yet to be determined.

The planned increase in capital stock is awaiting the approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

The Cainta mall has been appraised by Cuervo Appraisers Inc. at P4.8 billion. It is presently mortgaged to Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc. and Bank of the Philippine Islands to secure Sta. Lucia Realty's obligations worth about P800 million.

SLLI has been authorized by its board to assume SLR's obligations that were backed by the mall.

SLLI's board also approved a plan to offer additional company shares next year. The terms of the offer have yet to be approved by the board.

Sources said the planned offering was intended to raise capital for the company's expansion.

PVB profit up 55%

PHILIPPINE VETERANS Bank, a medium-sized commercial bank owned by Filipino war veterans and their heirs, posted a 55-percent year-on-year growth in profit in the first nine months to P425.4 million.

The January to September profit was more than the P415 million posted by the bank in the whole of 2006.

"It looks like Veterans Bank will surpass the P500-million income target for 2007," PVB president Ricardo Balbido Jr. said in a statement.

Income as of end-September grew by 7 percent to P1.88 billion from P1.76 billion in the same period last year. Total expenses fell by 1.5 percent to P1.459 billion.

The profit increase was attributed to treasury trading activities, trust fees and well-contained operating costs, the bank said.

PVB's resources rose to P31.73 billion as of end-September, from P3.86 billion a year ago, due to a P4-billion increase in deposit base. Total capital funds stood at P4.42 billion, up 11 percent from year-ago level while the capital adequacy ratio based on the Basel 2 framework was 23.52 percent. *Doris Dumlao*

EMPIRE EAST TO DEVELOP SAN LORENZO PLACE

Empire East Land Holdings chair Andrew Tan (center) and Asia Pacific Consolidated Land Holdings chair Juanito Que shake hands to seal their agreement to jointly develop San Lorenzo Place, a mixed-use high-rise community on a 1.33-hectare lot beside San Lorenzo Village. With them are (from left) Asia Pacific vice chair Francisco Alba, treasurer Bernardo Lichaytoo and president Jonathan Que.

PNOC-EC to give up control over projects

By Abigail L. Ho

IN PREPARATION FOR ITS PLANNED privatization, PNOC Exploration Corp., a subsidiary of Philippine National Oil Co., will have to let go of its control over the proposed Batangas-Manila (BatMan1) and Bataan-Manila (BatMan2) pipeline projects.

PNOC-EC president Rafael Del Pilar said the state-owned firm would still be involved in the pipeline projects in the future, but most likely to a lesser degree.

"The BatMan projects are not compatible with our privatization. But we'll still be involved, although not to the extent that we were years ago," he told the INQUIRER.

The responsibility of bidding the projects out to prospective contractors would be transferred to PNOC, he said, with PNOC-EC most likely to play a role only in the projects' implementation.

"We expect PNOC to outsource to PNOC-EC some of the responsibilities that the projects entail," he said.

A number of foreign firms, including China's PetroChina Co. Ltd., Russia's Gazprom and Thailand's PTT Public Co. Ltd., have expressed interest in undertaking the 80-100-kilometer BatMan1 and 140-kilometer natural gas pipeline projects.

In an earlier interview, PNOC president Antonio Cailao said the state firm had signed a memorandum of understanding with PTT for the conduct of feasibility studies on various energy-related projects, including the BatMan1 and BatMan2 pipelines.

This did not mean, however, that PTT would have the first crack at the project, he said. Other entities, such as PetroChina and Gazprom, could also bid for the projects.

Del Pilar earlier said PetroChina had already seen some studies done on the pipeline project and had also conducted its own preliminary studies.

"Recently, the ones we have presented the project to and that have expressed interest in the project include PetroChina and Gazprom of Russia, who went to us and looked at the studies (on the pipeline project). They're just scouting for projects. PetroChina has more advanced studies and they're offering four definitive proposals," he said.

Quarter-point cut in BSP rates seen

From page B1

"Despite prevailing benign inflation conditions, we believe the uptrend in inflation next year has firmed given strong demand coupled with an oil price outlook that continues to edge up," Trinidad said.

"While we can argue strongly about the neutralizing effect of exchange appreciation, sustained hefty gains in domestic demand will continue to push actual growth beyond potential," he said.

Based on Citigroup's estimates, the Philippines' actual domestic economic growth stood at 30 percent more than the potential as of end-June.

Using a time series analysis on the consumer price index, which measures the increase in average consumer prices based on a basket of goods consumed by a typical household, Citigroup sees the country's inflation rising to 3.6 percent to 3.7 percent by March to April next year.

"This preview of next year's inflation estimates undershoot BSP's annual inflation commitment of 4-5 percent, suggesting that monetary accommodation might linger but bidding farewell to additional policy rate cuts," he said.

Another policy rate cut in November, Trinidad said, would not derail the bank's strong currency outlook of 43-43.50 by year's end.

He noted that market players were starting to anticipate robust yearend remittance flows and capital-raising by corporations through the equity market while the third-quarter import season ended.

"A weak US dollar environment amid returning offshore portfolio flows augurs well for the peso. Economic news flow including fiscal-driven buoyant growth prospects, fiscal consolidation, record high gross international reserves and lower external debt ratios support onshore risk appetite," he said.

CURRENCIES

October 31, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.692569	1.000000	43.9470
Japan	Yen	0.006042	0.008724	0.3834
United Kingdom	Pound	1.432717	2.068700	90.9132
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.089364	0.129032	5.6706
Switzerland	Franc	0.597867	0.863260	37.9377
Canada	Dollar	0.727336	1.050200	46.1531
Singapore	Dollar	0.477601	0.689608	30.3062
Australia	Dollar	0.636962	0.919709	40.4185
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.837491	2.653153	116.5981
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.185174	0.267373	11.7502
Brunei	Dollar	0.475960	0.687238	30.2020
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000076	0.000110	0.0048
Thailand	Baht	0.022022	0.031797	1.3974
UAE	Dirham	0.188608	0.272331	11.9681
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.443900	63.4551
Korea	Won	0.000764	0.001103	0.0485
China	Yuan**	0.092703	0.133854	5.8825
Denmark	Kroner	0.134177	0.193738	8.5142
India	Rupee	0.017622	0.025445	1.1182
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.207232	0.299222	13.1499
New Zealand	Dollar	0.531193	0.766989	33.7069
Sweden	Kroner	0.108775	0.157060	6.9023
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021375	0.030863	1.3563

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Oct. 30, 2007

* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.

** Asian time closing rate as of Oct. 30, 2007

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 31, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	6.4	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc	8.6	8.6	8.4	8.4	32,000
73	43	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	62	62.5	62	62.5	1,098,500
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	68	68	65.5	65.5	4,976,400
748	536	China Banking Corp.	715	715	710	710	1,030
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	600
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.43	360,000
75.5	45.5	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	62	62.5	61.5	62	2,727,900
65.5	34.5	Philippine National Bank	48.5	49	48.5	48.5	936,400
39.57	17.17	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	27.5	29	27.5	29	1,427,500
90	60.5	Security Bank Corp.	76	78.5	76	78.5	41,400
66	45.99	Union Bank of the Philippines	50	50	50	50	137,400
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	2	2.02	1.98	2	3,405,000
16.25	4.35	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	14.25	14.75	13.75	14.75	1,276,400
8.8	4.6	Filipino Fund Inc.	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	4,000
1.6	0.5	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.18	1.02	1.06	890,000
5.9	4.9	I-Remit Inc.	5.2	5.5	5.2	5.5	4,556,000
1,950.00	1,570.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,930.00	1,950.00	1,930.00	1,950.00	1,390
5	2.95	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.45	3.5	3.45	3.5	754,000
3.1	1.22	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	60,000
1,390.00	241	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc	1,300.00	1,345.00	1,270.00	1,300.00	15,280
2,470.00	1,970.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,400.00	2,470.00	2,400.00	2,470.00	1,760
1.94	1.3	Vantage Corp.	1.52	1.56	1.52	1.56	145,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5.4	5.7	5.4	5.7	8,379,000
70.5	49	First Gen Corp.	60	60	59.5	60	1,644,300
92	51	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	86	86.5	86	86	2,170,000
17.5	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	16.75	17	16.75	17	2,492,500
105.45	23.64	Manila Electric Co.	83	83	81.5	82.5	1,700,800
7.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.6	27,653,000
7	3.9	Petron Corp.	6.9	7	6.7	7	7,306,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	8	8.1	8	8	26,000
2.3	0.99	Trans-Asia Oil & Energy Dev't Corp.	2.06	2.06	1.92	1.96	10,904,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.2	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.2	26,000
2.95	1.66	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.82	1.84	1.8	1.8	535,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	27	27	27	27	250,100
61	39	Jollibee Foods Corp.	51	51	51	51	598,600
0.98	0.5	RFM Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.74	0.75	650,000
3.7	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.75	2.75	2.7	2.7	417,000
80	58	San Miguel Corp. "A"	59.5	59.5	59.5	59.5	40,000
88	59.5	San Miguel Corp. "B"	62	62	61.5	62	508,600
22	13.75	Universal Robina Corp.	14.5	15	14.5	14.75	13,305,100
0.55	0.26	Vitarich Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	50,000
		CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	2.64	EEI Corp.	5.5	5.7	5.4	5.7	1,065,000
9.2	4.95	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	1,820,000
7	2.6	Republic Cement Corp.	4.45	4.45	4.4	4.4	845,000
2	0.48	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc	1.14	1.16	1.12	1.14	3,988,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies, Inc.	4.55	4.6	4.55	4.6	126,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
[illegible]	0.17	[illegible] Resources Inc	0.29	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	2.6	A. Soriano Corp.	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.4	152,000
0.17	0.044	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.15	0.12	0.145	551,200,000
1.28	0.235	APC Group Inc.	0.71	0.72	0.71	0.72	4,790,000
3.65	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	2.85	2.95	2.85	2.9	249,000
3.7	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	21,000
0.018	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	6,000,000
9.7	5.6	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	7.2	7.4	7.2	7.3	2,710,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.016	235,100,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.4	5.5	5.2	5.4	17,297,000
1.38	0.54	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	0.81	0.84	0.81	0.83	240,000
1.5	0.33	Asia Amalgamated Holdings Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	40,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.46	2.46	2.42	2.44	2,985,000
620	397.92	Ayala Corp.	615	620	600	620	385,590
15.25	7.39	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	14.75	14.75	14	14.5	17,700
5.8	1.42	Benpres Holdings Corp	4.4	4.55	4.35	4.55	3,522,000
12	4.7	DMCI Holdings Inc.	10.75	12	10.75	12	6,334,700
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.3	6.8	6.3	6.8	25,000
3.55	1.54	House of Investments Inc.	2	2	2	2	6,000
14.5	7.8	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	235,000
11.5	1.48	Minerales Industrias Corp.	7	7	6.9	7	1,443,000
8.5	2.95	PAL Holdings Inc	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.4	108,000
0.28	0.016	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.205	0.22	0.205	0.215	75,050,000
0.75	0.185	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.47	0.48	1,940,000
2.1	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	55,000
452.5	263.74	SM Investments Corp.	380	380	375	380	565,550
2.1	1.08	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	77,000
0.73	0.13	Sinophil Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.4	0.41	6,390,000
1.06	0.61	Solid Group Inc.	0.78	0.82	0.78	0.82	490,000
2	0.9	South China Resources Inc.	1.52	1.52	1.5	1.52	858,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	15	16.75	13.25	16.75	41,700
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.37	3,940,000
1.1	0.26	Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.66	0.68	0.66	0.68	420,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	1	A Brown Co. Inc	1.46	1.5	1.4	1.5	705,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc	7.6	7.7	7.5	7.7	76,000
19.25	11.88	Ayala Land Inc.	15.5	15.5	15	15	23,749,600
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.34	1.36	1.34	1.36	1,781,000
2.7	1.2	Cityland Development Corp.	2	2	2	2	30,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	750,000
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.77	0.79	0.77	0.79	14,490,000
0.47	0.055	Ever Gotesco Resources & Hold'gs Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	7,360,000
1.48	0.61	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.12	8,248,000
2.44	1.26	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.84	1.88	1.82	1.88	19,391,000
1.12	0.31	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.6	0.61	0.6	0.6	600,000
4.6	1.85	Megaworld Corp.	4.4	4.45	4.35	4.4	46,839,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.75	4.9	4.75	4.9	184,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	70,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty & Holdings Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.49	0.49	4,280,000
23	14.25	Robinson Land Corp.	20.5	20.75	20.5	20.75	2,361,500
5.9	1.52	SM Development Corp.	4.3	4.45	4.3	4.45	429,000
13.5	7.2	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	12	12	11.75	12	10,755,600
3.25	1.32	Shang Properties Inc.	2.36	2.36	2.36	2.36	661,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.61	0.61	0.6	0.6	1,600,000
0.49	0.09	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.2	5.5	10,219,000
4.5	0.38	Zipporah Realty Holdings Inc.	2.75	3.25	2.75	3.15	13,326,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	18.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	33.5	34	33.5	34	8,700
11.75	8	GMA Network Inc.	8.9	8.9	8.7	8.8	115,000
		TELECOMMUINCATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.46	1.48	1.46	1.46	127,000
1,745.00	1,110.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,715.00	1,720.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	80,820
3,285.00	2,250.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	3,010.00	3,010.00	2,990.00	3,005.00	111,050
8.1	5	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	7.4	7.6	7.4	7.6	1,246,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
12	2.1	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	9.5	9.6	9.4	9.4	104,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	9.1	9.2	9	9.2	1,176,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.042	0.042	0.041	0.042	10,000,000
29.5	8.5	Imperial Resources Inc. "A"	15.5	17.5	15.5	17.5	17,600
0.32	0.044	Island Information & Technology Inc.	0.185	0.19	0.185	0.19	13,190,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.28	1.3	1.28	1.28	780,000
0.0725	0.03	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.0525	0.055	28,600,000
5.8	1.34	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l Inc.	3.15	3.25	3.15	3.2	3,558,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	4,000
6.8	3.6	Asian Terminals Inc.	4.15	4.15	4.15	4.15	25,000
42.5	18.5	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	41.5	41.5	41	41.5	628,100
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	2	2	2	2	57,000
2.04	1.04	Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	12,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
16.5	5	Acesite (Phils.) Hotel Corp.	9.9	10.5	9.9	10.5	4,000
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.9	2.9	34,000
6	2.16	Manila Jockey Club Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	27,000
0.98	0.32	Premiere Entertainment Prod Inc.	0.72	0.74	0.7	0.74	6,950,000
1.2	0.5	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.81	0.81	0.8	0.81	1,400,000
		EDUCATION					
9.8	7.2	Centro Escolar University	8	8	8	8	4,000
3.7	2.6	IPeople Inc.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	21,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	2	Macroasia Corp.	5.3	5.4	5.2	5.3	973,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	12.5	12.5	12	12	45,000
30	10.5	Pacys Inc.	11	11	11	11	980,500
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	16,600,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.6	792,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.7	93,000
21.25	7.8	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	16	16	15.5	15.75	2,590,400
14.25	8.9	Benguet Corp. "A"	13	14	13	13	408,700
11.5	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	10	11.25	10	11	2,249,300
3.1	0.57	Geograce Resources Philippines Inc.	2.55	2.65	2.48	2.6	51,494,000
0.39	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.34	12,460,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.37	2,050,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.026	31,100,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	55,300,000
30	1.98	NIHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	24	25.5	24	25	2,282,000
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	187,800,000
10.75	3.5	Philex Mining Corp.	10.25	10.5	10	10.5	20,007,400
46.5	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	43	46.5	43	45	435,800
1.36	0.47	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.88	0.92	0.84	0.89	2,740,000
1.8	0.68	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.28	1.3	1.26	1.28	1,700,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	1,010,000
0.029	0.0095	Oriental Pet. & Minerals Corp. "A"	0.026	0.027	0.026	0.027	450,300,000
0.03	0.01	Oriental Pet. & Minerals Corp. "B"	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	34,700,000
29	8.6	PNOC Exploration Corp. "B"	19	19	19	19	4,600
13.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	12.25	12.25	11.75	12	245,000
0.032	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.03	0.031	0.029	0.031	604,500,000

	AVERAGES		VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	951.58 DOWN	3.17	22,847,960	743,239,715.00
Industrial	4,695.68 DOWN	4.68	89,610,000	1,096,986,420.00
Holding Firms	2,225.59 UP	17.57	922,646,540	779,381,390.00
Property	1,682.34 DOWN	32.07	401,397,698	1,075,246,373.60
Service	1,833.98 DOWN	5.64	70,282,770	560,238,740.00
Mining & Oil	8,539.86 UP	96.71	1,480,862,200	538,705,940.00
All Shares Index	2,349.83 DOWN	5.05		
PSEI	3,758.97 DOWN	24.46		
	GRAND TOTALS		2,987,647,168	4,793,798,578.60

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK PSE

Advocate of financial literacy reaches out to people

10 axioms of investing

1. LOW RISK, LOW return; high risk, high return.
2. Money grows faster through compound interest.
3. Don't put all your eggs in one basket.
4. Pay yourself first.
5. Know your real returns after taxes, inflation and the cost of your investment.
6. Establish emergency funds and own adequate insurance before you invest.
7. Have a clear goal and defined timeline before you invest.
8. Do not invest in anything you do not fully understand.
9. Beware of the sales pitch: Good financial advisers guide you to make your decision; they will not tell you what to do or where to invest.
10. Know when to quit if the investment is not working for you.

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

PIONEER trainers teach students in Solano, Nueva Vizcaya about the basics of finance.

INSURANCE FIRM PIONEER Life Inc. spends a lot of its time talking to different groups of Filipinos to encourage them to take out insurance either for themselves or their families.

From these discussions, Pioneer realized that Filipinos were hungry for financial information they can use, like how can they earn more from their money and not just depend on the paltry interest rates the banks would offer for their savings accounts.

Pioneer Life chair David Coyukiat told the INQUIRER that it was this realization that drove Pioneer to put in place early this year a financial literacy program it called "Pioneer Financial Fitness" to introduce ordinary Filipinos to concepts other than deposit and withdrawal.

Pioneer partners with groups, such as parishes in the provinces, to get people to listen to Pioneer experts for a few hours, and learn how they can become more "financially fit."

Pioneer senior vice president Rolando A. Robles said the first part of the discussion covers basic investment principles, such as income, investments and savings, as well as debt.

The next part covers planning ahead, which the participants realize they can not get to unless they have cash left over from their basic expenses.

It is in this part where discussions on alternative types of investments, such as long-term savings, stocks, bonds and even insurance come in.

According to Pioneer, insurance should be the foundation investment product that will cover such events as death, fire and damage to property.

CORPORATE CITIZEN

After that, investors may consider pooled funds and, ultimately, to direct purchase of individual stocks and bonds as they gain more knowledge of risks and rewards and become more sophisticated.

Pioneer developed its training module based largely on its experience conducting similar lectures among Pioneer employees.

Robles said the Pioneer trainers make use of games to illustrate key points, and they make sure that participants get into the discussion so they can truly learn from the exercises.

"They realize that it does not really take a lot for them to save more," Robles said. "That there is a lot of waste going on in their life."

He tells participants, for example, that they can easily save hundreds every month by just cutting down on their trips to the coffee shop, paying their credit card debt in full and eating at home more often.

"We tell them that if you cannot pay for an item in cash, then you can't afford it, unless it is a big item like a house or a car," he said.

Pioneer also encourages the participants to look closely at their expenses and see which ones they can really cut without radically changing their lifestyle. All these modifications will result in bigger savings in the end.

"We ask them, do you really need that many phones? How about snacks? By showing them what they are buying, they realize by themselves their potential savings," Robles said.

Since the program started in February this year, Pioneer has held five training sessions, benefiting 50 to 70 participants at a time. So far, it has reached out to over 300 and it plans to hold more before the end of the year.

Robles said Pioneer is particularly concerned with the families left behind by overseas workers because they have money on hand but usually do not know how to invest it properly for maximum return.

Pioneer is also working with the spouses of seafarers, who hold as much as 80 percent of their husbands' salaries as mandated by the employment contracts.

To encourage participants to put into practice the concepts they learn, Pioneer conducts follow-up seminars with the same groups after a month. They are even given free piggy banks to illustrate the need to save.

Coyukiat said Pioneer wants to conduct more seminars and touch more audiences. Aside from the families of OFWs, there are the young professionals, the women's groups and the small business associations.

"We have become an advocate of financial literacy," Coyukiat said. "There are no strings attached. If the seminars lead to sales, then it is just a bonus. The seminars are an end in itself."

Indigenous artists champion IP rights

Craftsmen from around the world to draw up 'Manila Declaration'

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LEADING ADVOCATES OF INTELLECTual property rights from across the globe—among them artists and craftsmen from indigenous tribes—would gather in Pasay City and are expected to come up with a "Manila Declaration" in support of their arts and handicraft.

The advocates will be attending the Business Opportunities 2008 and the First International Arts and Crafts Expo of the Asean Handicraft Promotion and Development Association (Ahpada) at the SMX Convention Center, from Nov. 22 to 25, Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano said.

"The Manila declaration would be authored by foreign and local artists, craftsmen, entrepreneurs, academics, diplomats and policymakers, who are concerned with the misrepresentation of authentic crafts and artifacts in global travel markets," Durano said in a statement.

Officials of Unesco (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), who will be attending the twin forums, will convey the declaration to the United Nations, he added.

Among the delegates are Australian Mandawuy Yunupingu, deputy director of the Yothu Yindi Foundation; Michael Garcia, president, Indian Arts and Crafts Association of New Mexico; representatives of the Inuit Art Foundation in Canada; and Linda Worth, director of the International Labor Organization's sub-regional office.

According to Durano, cultural and heritage tourism needs a boost because tourists are being deprived of the experience of meeting authentic carvers, weavers, sculptors, goldsmiths and furniture makers who can educate them about the traditions, symbols and values behind their crafts.

"The incomes of authentic artists and craftsmen, mostly coming from indigenous tribes, are lowered due to copying and the poor quality of mechanized versions," he said.

Four plenary sessions of Biz Ops '08, held in conjunction with the Expo, would focus on product development and marketing of arts and crafts, protection of IPR, country presentations, and Ahpada projects.

The events, dubbed "Creativity and Innovation: A Renaissance" is being organized by the Department of Tourism through the Philippine Convention and Visitors Corp., the Department of Trade and Industry, the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Philippine Tourism Authority.

Agri dealers turn to police, DA for help

By Amy R. Remo

TO ENSURE A STEADY SUPPLY OF VEGETAbles in Metro Manila during the holidays, the Department of Agriculture has teamed up with the Philippine National Police to curb "road problems" encountered by farmers and dealers.

In a consultative meeting dubbed "Ugnayan ni Tsip," vegetable dealers appealed to the PNP for assistance in dealing with erring traffic enforcers and policemen.

Agriculture Assistant Secretary Salvador Salacup said the PNP's intervention in agricultural projects will "guarantee the efficient and effective delivery of agricultural products to Metro Manila."

According to Salacup, common problems plaguing vegetable farmers from Northern and Southern Luzon include illegal checkpoints, where transporters are stopped despite having food lane access stickers.

Through the DA's food lane access program, 24-hour routes have been designated for trucks transporting fresh produce from the provinces.

Food lane access stickers are given to trucks with perishable commodities, weighing up to 4,500 kilos.

These stickers are supposed to ensure the efficient distribution of agricultural and fishery products from farm production sites in the provinces to major demand centers and markets in Metro Manila. But because of the truck ban, vegetable growers often resort to selling their produce to middlemen and traders, who consequently jack up prices.

Other dealers meanwhile claim that police enforcers often accuse them of violating traffic rules and regulations, including overloading, Salacup said.

To speed up transactions in the highway, dealers said they often resort to bribery.

PNP chief Avelino Razon Jr. had assured vegetable dealers that the PNP will resolve their problems as soon as possible.

Microsoft sees more heroes coming out of RP

By Riza T. Olchondra

SEARCHING FOR SOFTWARE developers keen on helping nongovernment organizations (NGOs) is a tall task, but Microsoft Philippines is up to the challenge.

"Our vision at Microsoft is to enable Filipinos to reach their potential. With the Heroes Happen Here (competition), we are following through on our commitment to spur local innovation and develop the local industry by tapping into the skills of our developers," said Microsoft Philippines senior product manager Jojo Ayson.

With the theme "IT Heroes," the competition enjoins developers to apply their skills and imagination in creating applications that will provide real-world solutions in the local setting.

One requirement is that the entries should use Microsoft products such as Visual Studio 2008, Windows Server 2008 and Microsoft SQL Server.

Teams composed of three members each will be paired with an NGO who will collaborate with them in identifying the organization's needs and how these could best be addressed through technology.

The first category of the competition is open to professional developers.

The winning group will fly to Orlando, Florida in June 2008 to participate in Microsoft TechEd 2008, an annual gathering of IT professionals and developers all over the world.

The second category is open to students. Student teams will partner with environmental NGOs.

The top team will represent the country in next year's Imagine Cup finals in France.

The Imagine Cup is the world's largest annual student technology competition spearheded by Microsoft and participated in by thousands of student developers from around the world.

Aside from benefiting from the application, counterpart NGOs of the winning teams will receive hardware and software grants from Microsoft.

"We look forward to the opportunity to show how technology positively impacts communities and organizations. We are glad that we are providing a venue where we can provide the resources to help NGOs operate more efficiently," he said.

The deadline for entries is Nov. 26 for the professional category and Jan. 15 next year for the student category.

Semi-finalists will be announced in December and January, for the first and second categories respectively. Finals will take place in March 2008.

More information about the competition is posted on http://msforums.ph. Interested parties may also e-mail heroes@msevents.ph.

Founded in 1975, Microsoft is the worldwide leader in software, services and solutions that help people and businesses realize their full potential.

EXPLORATION AGREEMENT
Leoven Evangelista of BHP Billiton (seated, left) and Jose Miguel Cabarrus, president and CEO of Sibuyan Nickel Properties Inc., are about to sign an exploration agreement, where Billiton will finance drilling operations at the proposed mining site on Sibuyan Island in Romblon. Standing behind the two is Col. Jesus G. Cabarrus, chair of Sibuyan Nickel.

RP seeks bigger grant from US

From page B1

Teves said the Philippines needed to be accepted into the "compact" category because the MCC requires a country to stay in one category for only two years. Failure to qualify for the higher category means missing out on a grant from the MCC.

The MCC consider the following areas in determining whether a country qualifies for a grant: anti-corruption efforts, just governance, investments in human development, economic freedom and fiscal policy.

Teves said the MCC recognized the Philippines' good performance in the area of just governance. This area covers respect for political rights and civil liberties.

But he said that the MCC noted that the Philippines needed to improve on the other areas to qualify for the $300-million grant under the "compact" category.

Teves said though that some of the data used by the MCC in coming up with its assessment of the Philippines were outdated. He cited that the MCC used 2005 figures in assessing the Philippine government's fiscal condition.

"We all know that in 2006 and this year, there had been significant improvements in the government's fiscal standing," Teves said.

Asian stocks slide

From page B1

fore ending a shade lower after the boost from a widely expected US interest rate cut faded. The index is up nearly 45 percent so far this year.

"The market was getting a bit complacent, thinking that the Fed will fix everything. It's not going to be that easy," said Eric Betts, equities strategist at Nomura Australia.

"I don't think the subprime issue will disappear at least in the next couple of months. Whenever companies report losses linked to the subprime mortgages or mortgage delinquency data comes out, concerns will resurface and hurt market sentiment," said Lee Kyung-soo, a market analyst at Daewoo Securities.

Stock markets fell across the board with South Korea and Australia both ending about 2 percent lower, while Hong Kong was down 2.7 percent by the midday break. All three markets had hit record highs this week.

Philippine financial markets were closed Thursday and Friday due to public holidays.

US crude steadied near $93.60 a barrel, after sliding from an all-time high of $96.24 as concerns about the US economy weighed, while gold edged up to $790 an ounce, keeping within sight of a 28-year peak near $800. *Reuters*

Dull pain in the knee? Go consult a doctor

By Charles E. Buban

IF YOU FEEL A DULL, ACHING pain under or around the front of your kneecap each time doing leg exertions—walking, running or jumping—don't just shrug it off, talk to a doctor.

For most orthopedic surgeons, the most frustrating thing is to meet patients with an already advanced stage of arthritis.

"In a lot of cases we meet patients whose only option is to have their knee joints replaced. If one sees a doctor much earlier, the condition can still be managed through a combination of medication, exercise, rest, weight-management and nutrition. Surgery is reserved for the most severe cases," explained Dr. Ilustre Guloy Jr., an orthopedic surgeon at the Asian Hospital and Medical Center and St. Luke's Medical Center.

Over 100 types

The doctor reminded that with over 100 types of arthritis and rheumatic diseases including osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis and fibromyalgia, an average person may not be able to tell if the pain is coming from the joint, a torn tendon, or in the area of the joint.

"Only a doctor could evaluate this and tell if the person in fact has joint pain and tell the reason. Moreover, results from blood tests and X-rays could help us doctors decide on the best treatment approach," Guloy added.

To further impart his knowledge, Guloy recently agreed to become one of the resource persons of the Arthritis Awareness Campaign, a series of educational discussions that seeks to address the 11 million Filipinos suffering from arthritis.

Asian Hospital next

The Asian Hospital in Alabang will be the next venue (Nov. 15) of the event where aside from the free lectures, the doctors invited will also provide free medical consultations as well as X-rays to the most needy members in the audience.

Stryker Corp., which supported the campaign, informed that the educational discussion started last month at The Medical City in Pasig City.

"The Arthritis Awareness Campaign will be made available to more hospitals, health centers and communities. We have a call center (892-9343) where interested parties may inquire or reserve," informed Manuel Arkoncel of Stryker Philippines.

Supplying medical equipment, Stryker is one of the largest players in the worldwide orthopedic market.

"Recently, the company introduced for the first time in the country, a financing plan to make hip, knee and spine implants affordable to more Filipinos," Arkoncel announced.

Awareness key

Guloy said a diagnosis of arthritis does not have to signal an end to the activities one enjoys.

"There are strategies for improving physical and mental well-being while coping with arthritis. One has to be well informed," he said.

If left unattended, Guloy said many people will experience difficulty functioning at home, at work or at play.

"A major goal of all arthritis treatment is the preservation or improvement of daily tasks. By going to the doctor immediately, you can start a treatment plan that will help protect your joints and lessen the arthritis pain," the doctor assured.

Facts about arthritis

WHILE THE KNEE IS THE most often identified site of arthritis, the disease can also affect other parts of the body.

The term arthritis refers to more than 100 different types of arthritis conditions, according to orthopedic surgeon Ilustre Guloy Jr. of the Asian Hospital and Medical Center and St. Luke's Medical Center.

The most common type is osteoarthritis, a degenerative joint disease in which the cartilage that covers the ends of bones in the joint deteriorates, causing pain and loss of movement as bone begins to rub against bone.

While this type of arthritis mostly affects the over 50 individuals, it should not be regarded as an old age disease since genetics, body weight, exercise, previous trauma and overuse of the joint also play an important factor.

Wear and tear symptom

Another often cited type of arthritis is rheumatoid. Unlike the wear and tear symptom common to osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis is an autoimmune disease in which the joint lining becomes inflamed as part of the body's immune system activity.

It is one of the most serious and disabling types, affecting mostly women.

Gout is also another type of arthritis that affects mostly men most often attacking their small joints, especially the big toe.

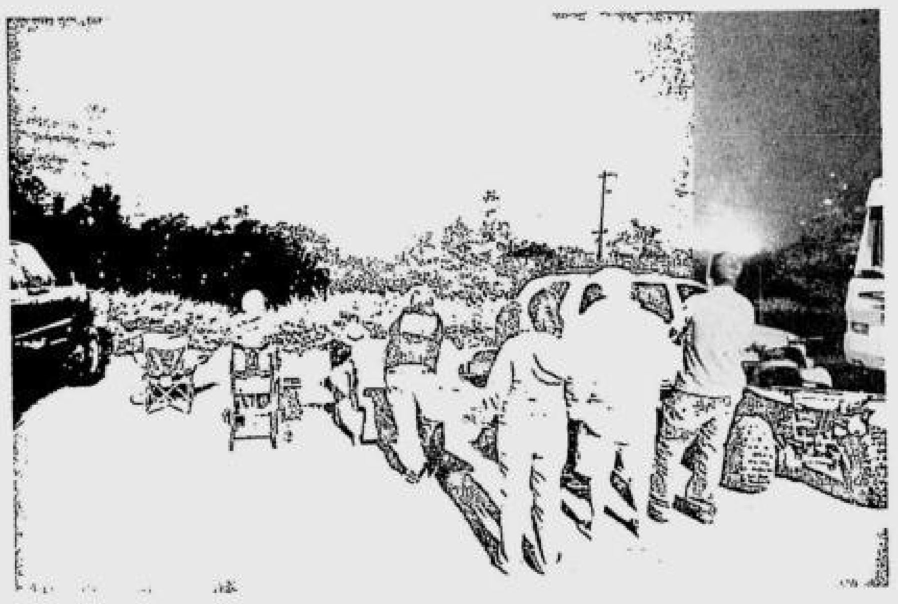
It is usually the result of a defect in body chemistry that is almost always can be completely controlled with medication and changes in diet.

Guloy reminded that early diagnosis is important since if the condition is left undiagnosed and untreated, many types of arthritis can cause irreversible damage to the joints, bones, organs and skin. *Charles E. Buban*

Forest wildfires telling man to back off

MEDICAL FILES

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD



CALIFORNIA wildfires

AFP

LOS ANGELES—IN THIS CITY named after them, the angels must be feeling bad at the utter devastation of nearby areas and various sites in California razed by wildfires in what is believed to be among the worst in the state's history.

Charred remains of victims are found in the rugged mountains razed by the fires particularly in San Diego county near the Mexican border. Death toll has reached 12 and still counting, while at least 65 people have been reported injured. Half a million Californians fled their homes and villages in the state's largest mass evacuation.

Scores of homes, once enviable because of their fantastic views of the mountains, are now reduced to ashes. Jobert, our meeting coordinator here, says that at least five homes of famous Hollywood stars have been burned down...not a trace left of the luxurious touches they once boasted of.

A bit of soothing balm

President George W. Bush came here a week ago and surveyed the devastated areas. His presidential concern, coming more timely than during the Katrina tragedy, provided a bit of a soothing balm. He was shown on television saying: "... there's no question a lot of people are suffering, and there's no question there's been terrible losses." The United States government is making sure all evacuees are properly sheltered and taken care of.

Perhaps not even Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's Rambo-tious powers, even if they were real, could have averted and promptly stopped this tragedy. Despite their modern equipment and armamentarium, American firefighters seemed helpless in controlling the lightning-like spread of the wildfires. No wonder the expression—"spreading like wildfire."

The fires have reached such a size that not even the most sophisticated Western firefighting capability could douse the fire directly. The most the firefighters could attempt to do is control the areas it can spread to. They call these as "control lines," which are created by getting rid of the combustible materials in certain areas along the wildfires' path. It's ironic that they actually "torch" these identified control lines and extinguish them so that when the wildfires reach them, they no longer have any combustible or flammable material and the wildfires can be controlled more easily. This method is effective but can also fail when the wind shifts.

What could have caused these recent California wildfires occurring almost simultaneously in several sites? Although wildfires anywhere may sometimes be caused by lightning, arson and droughts, cyclical climate changes brought about by global warming can also be a major factor. It is again another expression of nature's wrath over human carelessness. Wildfires are most common and severe during periods of drought and during days of strong winds. Logically, as the land turns dry, the forest goes up in flames.

Wildfires create a vicious cycle that worsens global warming, which, on the other hand, is also its major cause. The resulting smoke from the wildfires can also have a tremendous effect on the stratosphere gases. Scientists have shown that gigatons of carbon dioxide are released to the atmosphere when there's a huge forest wildfire. Global warming advocates report that global temperatures rise an average 1 degree Fahrenheit annually, and warming will continue as long as manmade "greenhouse gases," mostly carbon dioxide, continue to increase.

These recent California wildfires might just create another "carbon bomb" and might cause—hopefully not—further catastrophes related to global warming.

Stern warning from nature

On a more optimistic note, some scientists look at wildfires from a different and interesting perspective. They believe that wildfires are a natural and necessary part of the ecosystem of wildlands, where new species of plants that have survived the fires, evolve into better ones.

Researchers have shown some plants which have "reserve shoots" that sprout after a fire, or those which have "fire-resistant" seeds. Smoke from the fire also promotes germination in some plants and trees inducing flower- or fruit-bearing. Hence, the local practice in the Philippines of "smoking" mango trees to make them bear more fruits is not really without scientific basis.

Some plants like Eucalyptus, may also produce oils which are flammable and is actually a natural protective mechanism to repel threats to its habitat. It drives away intruders and other potential threats.

It just occurred to me that perhaps nature is telling us through these wildfires that it's resenting the urbanization of mountain and forest areas.

Industrialists have carved out fashionable villages, hotels and resorts and other commercial establishments in areas previously untouched, unpolluted and unviolated.

Nature wants to claim back its lands and is telling man to "just back off" ... or else, man will get what he deserves. A stern warning from nature.

The art of math investigation

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

MOST READERS ASK FOR EASY LOGIC puzzles and fun math games, but sometimes, I receive requests that warm my heart. Certain students want to delve into deeper math (but which does not require advanced ideas like calculus); some teachers want to go beyond the ordinary problem solving required by the curriculum; and many parents inquire about good books to hone their children's math skills.

Originally published in 1987 by Oxford University Press, A. Gardiner's "Discovering Mathematics: The Art of Investigation" is now a classic, and thankfully, reprinted by Dover in an inexpensive edition. Gardiner was a professor at the University of Birmingham, and many of the problems in the book were successfully solved not only by his students, but many talented high school ones as well. "Time and again these students have responded with unexpected freshness, commitment, interest and sheer imaginative inventiveness," Gardiner says.

A different view of math

Aren't ordinary math texts enough? Don't they already contain formulas and equations to confound most people? The answer is that math is not really about memorizing numbers and formulas, but rather investigating patterns and using creativity to tackle problems. "The habit of investigation is rather poorly developed in most students," Gardiner says. "Their view of math is essentially passive. The average student imagines that one must first be taught certain standard methods, and is then free to exercise one's own mind only to the extent of using these methods to solve standard problems—largely by imitation.

"This book presents a very different view of math," he continues. "The emphasis on the way one investigates a problem should give a more realistic picture of the nature both of math itself, and of math thinking."

Problem solving in math requires perseverance, mental toughness and creativity, which may give rise to insight. These skills are precisely what are needed in dealing with everyday problems. "In real life the significant features of a problem are usually rather hard to identify, and a lot of painstaking detective work may be necessary before they can be finally traced down," Gardiner says. "It is one of the most striking characteristics of math that thoughtful and persistent analysis often throws up totally unexpected insights into what may at first have looked like an uninteresting problem."

Games

There is not enough space here to go into the math in detail, but let me assure you that only high school math, plus a little courage and lots of patience, are required to understand and attempt the problems. Here are some problems Gardiner poses:

Card Game: Two players have a pack of nine cards. They take turns to remove one, two or three cards from the pack, but a player must never remove the same number of cards as the previous player. The winner is the one who either takes the last card or leaves the other player with no valid move. Who wins?

Hint: Either the pack goes on getting smaller until a player takes the last card, or there comes a time when one player has no valid move. In either case someone has to win. But who? Play the game a few times (even if against an imaginary opponent) and see what happens.

Number Game: Pick a three-digit number *abc* whose first and last digits are different. Reverse the order of the digits to get the three-digit number *cba*. Subtract the smaller of these two numbers from the larger one to get a new three-digit number *def*. (If you get a two-digit number ef, write it as a three-digit number *0ef* with the first digit zero.) Now reverse the order of the digits of your new three-digit number to get *fed* or *fe0*. Finally, add *def* and *fed*. What do you get?

Hint: Pick another three-digit number and repeat the same process. You will find that you always get the same final answer, 1089. Do not be content to treat the answer as a "magic" number. Instead, try to figure out why it occurs. You can use arithmetic or algebra to do so.

Postage Stamp Game: Your British friend, a stamp collector, has an infinite supply of a-cent and b-cent stamps. Which total amounts can be made using just these stamps? Which amounts cannot be made?

Hint: Start by plugging numbers into *a* and b. Suppose your friend has five-cent and eight-cent stamps. Which of these amounts can be made using five-cent and eight-cent stamps only? (in cents) 23, 42, 76, 951, 13632, 27, 17, 11, 14, 26, 28. Make a complete list of the amounts between 1 and 99 cents that cannot be made.

Insight

Tackling problems is not easy. "At first sight a new piece of music may look like a confusing array of black blobs," Gardiner says. "But as the musician works on it, one section at a time, it gradually takes on a shape of its own, revealing internal connections which had previously been overlooked. The same is true of an unfamiliar math problem. At first sight you may not even understand the question. But as you painfully try to make sense of the problem, you will find that, little by little, the fog begins to lift."

"Discovering Mathematics," by A. Gardiner (Dover, 2007) is available in Powerbooks.

Atom-sized solution to cut cancer drug toxicity

By Tessa R. Salazar

IN THE DECADES THAT CHEMOTHERAPY has become the preferred (albeit dreaded) form of cancer treatment, parallel efforts have been exerted to address the issue of its toxic effects on patients.

Extensive research has produced new cancer drugs almost every three to six months. Still, the chemotherapy drug with less toxicity has proven elusive.

And then the first wave of commercial nanotechnology products to reduce cancer drug toxicity was born. The proper carrier or vehicle which can take drug molecules to the targeted site has been claimed to be developed. There are currently two approved carrier molecules (or novel drug delivery systems): polymer from India's Dabur Research and human albumen (from the US-based Abraxis Bioscience Inc., Los Angeles).

Nanotechnology is the development and engineering of devices so small that they are measured on a molecular scale. It is being applied in electronics, magnetics, optics, information technology, materials development, and biomedicine.

Experts noted that nanoscale devices, for instance, are 100 to 10,000 times smaller than human cells. Nanoscale devices smaller than 50 nanometers can easily enter most cells, while those smaller than 20 nanometers can move out of blood vessels as they circulate through the body.

Emerging 'targeted therapy'

In cancer treatment, nanotechnology belongs to the emerging "targeted therapy," which, in theory, would bring the fight against cancer to the molecular level (ferrying large doses of chemotherapeutic agents into malignant cells while sparing healthy cells), thus eliminating "collateral damage" to noncancerous cells and also eliminating the toxicity of the drug on the patient as a whole.

Dr. Shiva Kant Mishra, vice president for Dabur Research Foundation's clinical research and medical services, said nanopaclitaxel uses a polymer compound to convert the drug into its nano-sized molecules. "The polymer basically holds the molecule from all the sides and takes it everywhere. It's like a nanopack pocket."

Dabur began its project eight years ago after licensing a nanopolymer base from Delhi University.

During the Dabur Pharma-Philippine Society for Medical Oncology symposium Mishra discussed that since its launch in India in January 2007 Nanoparticle paclitaxel (Nanoxel) has been administered to more than 900 patients. He claimed that it has shown "good efficacy and safety profile."

The objective response has been more than 40 percent in metastatic breast cancer patients, who failed earlier on anthracycline, Mishra said.

Metastasis means the cancer has spread to other parts of the body.

Clinical trial

During the clinical trial of Nanoxel in 2004, more than 200 advanced breast cancer patients were studied. Mishra claimed that they had shown better response as well as safer compared to cremophore paclitaxel. Dabur is now evaluating the survival rates, as patients are being closely monitored and their conditions followed up.

Majority of the patients for Nanoxel are relapsed/metastatic breast cancer patients.

It is also being prescribed in other indications such as non-small cell lung cancer and ovarian cancer.

Dr. Dinesh Pendharkar, department head of the Batra Cancer Center at Batra Hospital in New Delhi, India, told the INQUIRER that what nanotechnology essentially does is to carry the drug directly to the tumor cell.

Reach cancerous site only

"For example, in breast cancer where cancerous cells lie in the breast tissue or have spread to the bones, nanotechnology will enable the drug to reach the cancerous site only. In maximum concentration, the drug molecules will be able to kill the tumor much, much better. So nanotechnology will be able to deliver a drug at a site where it is required and in a higher dose," Pendharkar explained.

Pendharkar, who talked about "Nanoparticle Technology in Oncolytics" during the PSMO convention, said the drug requires administration with a special intravenous set, as regular IV sets react with it.

Glenn Baria, Dabur Pharma Ltd country manager for the Philippines, Taiwan and Hong Kong, said Dabur is still undergoing the process of approval from the Bureau of Food and Drug for a Compassionate Special Permit.

"After approval we have lined up a number of patients and we are looking at providing some for free... but should fit the indication given by BFAD (metastatic stage). I'm working hard for the Philippines to be the first country after India (where the molecule was invented) to enjoy the benefits of nanotechnology."

Excellent alternative to surgery in lung cancer treatment

CAREPLUS

Angelo Palmones

IN 2005, LUNG CANCER killed more than 15,000 Filipinos. That's about 43 lives lost per day to the No. 1 form of cancer in the Philippines. Last year, approximately 17,000 Filipinos developed the disease; over 90 percent of them died.

Surgery is the standard treatment for primary lung cancer and cancerous tumors that have spread (metastasized) to the lungs. However, many lung cancer patients also suffer from other diseases or have compromised lung function that makes surgery too risky for them, according to Dr. Dennis C. Villanueva, a consultant vascular and interventional radiologist at the St. Luke's Medical Center. Other patients simply refuse to go under the knife because they fear the pain and risk of complications associated with surgery, he adds.

Radio Frequency Ablation

"For such patients, Radio Frequency Ablation or RFA provides an excellent alternative to surgery," says Dr. Villanueva, the only local specialist who has completed one-year international training on RFA of organs other than the liver with cancerous tumors.

RFA is a state-of-the-art, minimally invasive treatment that uses radio frequency energy to destroy cancerous tumors. RFA can be used to treat cancerous tumors of the liver, lungs, bone, kidney, adrenal gland, breast and thyroid gland. St. Luke's pioneered RFA of the liver in the country and has been successfully performing the procedure for more than 4 years now. Dr. Juliet Gopez-Cervantes, head of St. Luke's Center for Liver Diseases, has performed the most number of liver cancer RFA procedures in the country.

RFA for lung cancer involves the insertion of a probe, with Computerized Tomography (CT) scan guidance, through the lung tissue into the tumor, Dr. Villanueva explains. The tip of the probe delivers radio frequency energy, generating heat at the site of the lesion through agitation caused by alternating electrical current. This heat produces coagulation and cellular destruction, resulting in the removal (ablation) of the target lesion. The tumor is literally "burned out." RFA's mode of action is similar to that of a microwave oven—heating from the inside out. The lung safely reabsorbs the destroyed cells over a period of time.

Same efficacy as surgery

"RFA offers almost the same efficacy as surgery, but without the associated surgical risks and complications, Dr. Villanueva says.

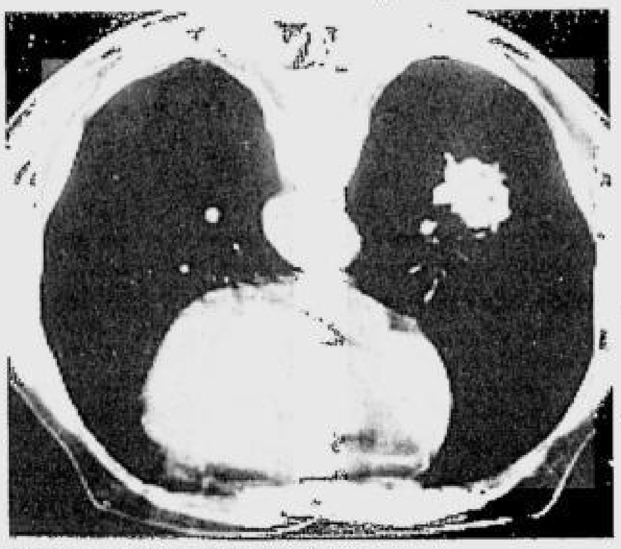
Some patients with metastatic or early-stage lung cancer are not good candidates for surgery, and may benefit from RFA, according to Dr. Villanueva. He notes that the procedure appears to be safe and feasible for ablation of peripheral lung nodules. RFA is best for cancerous tumors 4 cm or less in size. Before deciding to undergo RFA, a patient with lung tumor must first consult a thoracic surgeon who will perform a rigorous evaluation to determine if the patient would derive more benefits from standard surgery or other treatment modalities, Dr. Villanueva stresses.

To determine whether a lung cancer patient is responding to RFA treatment, tissue samples from the cancerous nodule are collected and examined under the microscope, Dr. Villanueva explains. "Lesions treated successfully decrease in size with time as they scar and contract."

Patient response to treatment may also be assessed through a Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Scan and CT Scan, Dr. Villanueva says. He notes that magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) provides better definition of tumor liquefaction as well as tissue densities and margins. PET scan may likewise be used as a primary and complementary modality for patient follow-up, Dr. Villanueva adds. These state-of-the-art imaging modalities are available at St. Luke's Medical Center.

* * *

Angelo Palmones is a science and technology broadcaster. For feedback, please e-mail the Healthcare Technology and Outcomes Information Bureau at inquire@htoib.com.



CT Scan-guided RFA of the lung

KIDS QUIZ

By Emman Cena

Let's get medical!

HELLO KIDS! DID YOU ACE THOSE dreaded exams and school projects?

The semester must be over by now. But you still have to keep those thinking caps on! How much do you know your biology? This is not a graded quiz nor a recorded recital. Keep your cool.

Just impress me with your familiarity on general science. Get to know some of the discoverers of our present hospital devices. Match the name of the equipment on the left with the name of its inventor on the right.

Hospital device/ equipment	Inventors
1. anesthesia	a) Zacharias Jansen
2. X-ray machine	b) Godfrey Hounsfield
3. stethoscope	c) Raymond Damadian
4. microscope	d) René Laënnec
5. thermometer	e) Philip Drinker
6. incubator	f) William Thomas (Green) Morton
7. CT Scan	g) Paul Zoll
8. MRI	h) Augustus Desiré Waller
9. EKG machine	i) Daniel Gabriel Fahrenheit
10. pacemaker	j) William Konrad Röentgen
	k) Stephanie Turnier

Bonus question: Who was the brain behind the respirator?

Answers: 1-f, 2-j, 3-d, 4-a, 5-i, 6-k, 7-b, 8-c, 9-h, 10-g

Answer to the bonus question: Philip Drinker

Unilever's recycling science

A BREAKTHROUGH SYSTEM IN THE functional utilization of manufacturing process residuals has been developed and established for Unilever Philippines in Paco, Manila, by a waste conversion technology supplier.

Mizuhotech, an engineering group, planned and fabricated the materials conversion facility on Cristobal Street in Paco Manila.

The facility uses an integrated homogenization process to neutralize and convert production leftovers and residuals into useful products for civil construction and infrastructure development projects.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

The residuals and by-products of manufacturing, potential inputs to the conversion facility, first go through a rigorous review and then are subjected (within the confines of Unilever) to the three Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) before the remaining residual flows are suitable for the materials conversion facility.

The facility receives solid industrial residuals and passes these through a shredding equipment, which changes the physical form and reduces the volume of the leftovers.

A mixing/blending process initiates the main neutralization and conversion process. This step eliminates and/or rearranges molecularly the remaining unwanted components in the materials such that they are rearranged and stabilized, and take on the character of inert-like substances, at which point they can be considered as secondary aggregate materials.

The materials are then turned into finished products through the use of standard molding, extrusion and forming equipment. This is called the homogenization step.

Most significant impact

The most significant impact of the process is to eliminate the need to dispose of industrial residuals in sanitary landfills or what used to be known widely as dumps.

Equally important is that the residuals such as sachets and wrappers are turned into beneficial secondary raw materials (i.e. gravel and sand replacements), thus helping preserve precious resources.

A wide range of products can be produced through this particular type of operation. Thus far, its main products have been hollow blocks and pavement tiles, but the facility has the flexibility to fabricate products for community park, shoreline rehabilitation, embankment stabilization and covered canal systems.

On a periodic basis, the processed residual materials in aggregate-like form are subjected to stringent analysis at laboratories accredited by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to determine the environmental safety of the secondary raw materials.

An outstanding beneficiary of the materials produced by the facility is the Smokey Mountain community led by Fr. Ben Beltran. The community is completing two significant projects: the transfer and operationalization of its materials recovery facility from the temporary housing area near Pier 18 in Tondo and the establishment of the Environmental Church, the first of its kind in the country.

Strengthening the fight against dengue-carrying mosquitoes

DENGUE IS A LEADING CAUSE of death and hospitalization among children in most Asian countries, according to the World Health Organization, so it is a disease that no mom would like any member of her family suffer from.

This is why most of them put their trust on brands like Bayer that have the proven track record and heritage in controlling insects such as dengue-carrying mosquitoes.

This is also the reason they welcome its latest product, the new Bayer Advanced Blattanex Multi-Insect Killer, which has an advanced oil-based formulation to provide excellent knockdown and mortality of disease-carrying insects such as the dengue-carrying *Aedes Aegypti* mosquitoes, flies and cockroaches.

Effective against insects

Keeping her home insect-free is an important consideration for a young mom like Vi Buendia.

"I have a 4-year-old daughter so naturally, I don't want to take any chances of her getting bitten by mosquitoes and suffering from dengue," says the part-time interior designer, who has found an ally in Bayer Advanced Blattanex Multi-Insect Killer.

Being bitten by dengue-carrying mosquitoes, after all, can lead to dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF). Signs and symptoms include the sudden onset of high fever that lasts from 2 to 7 days, joint and muscle pain, pain behind the eyes, skin rashes, vomiting of coffee-colored matter, dark-colored stool, and weakness. It can also cause nose-bleeding once the fever starts to subside.

In severe cases, DHF can cause physical deterioration which can lead to circulatory failure, a state of shock and death within 12 to 24 hours.

"I believe that Bayer has applied considerable research and development into its new product to ensure its effectiveness against disease-causing insects such as the mosquitoes that carry dengue," says Vi. "My family can now enjoy our home without having any fear of being bitten by them."

BUENDIA

VALLE

Completely odorless

Another homemaker who has found an ally in Bayer Advanced Blattanex Multi-Insect Killer is Flora Valle, a bank operations manager and mom to 3 kids.

"No mom would like to have her kids getting sick," she says. "And, most especially, she doesn't want them suffering from dengue."

Flora says that over the years she has relied on Bayer when it comes to eliminating disease-carrying insects such as mosquitoes. "I've counted on Bayer because it continues to be a brand I can trust to work exactly as advertised," she says.

Flora adds that another feature that she appreciates most in Blattanex Multi-Insect Killer is that it is completely odorless. Bayer Advanced Blattanex Multi-Insect Killer uses an advanced oil-based formulation that works as effectively as kerosene-based brands but does not leave an irritating odor.

"The problem with other insecticides, you see, is that with regular use the smell tends to stick to fabrics long after the insecticide has been applied. Since Bayer Advanced Blatttanex Multi-Insect Killer is odorless, I don't have to worry about any irritating smell lingering in a room after it has been applied," she adds.

Bayer Advanced Blattanex Multi-Insect Killer comes in 300-, 500- and 600-ml sizes. It is now available at SM Supermarkets, Landmark Makati Supermarket, Landmark Trinoma Supermarket, Robinsons Supermarkets, Ever Supermarkets, Cherry Foodarama, Hi-Top Supermarkets, Unimart, Makati Supermarket, Sta. Lucia Supermarket, Crossings Supermarket, Pioneer Supermarket, Eunilane, Super 8 Groceries, South Supermarkets, Ultra Mega Multi Sales, Lianas Supermarkets and other stores nationwide.

"Even when I walk through a valley, I feel no harm.
For you are at my side, your rod & staff give me courage..."

The Orient Group of Companies
Mourns the untimely demise of its General Manager and President of Modagraphics...

CELIA "Toots" S. VIRAY

Who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on November 1, 2007 at the age of 47.

She is survived by her Dad, **Tom Viray** (**Mom Corazon S. Viray** †), daughter **Chami**, brothers (**Cesar** †), **Celso** and wife **Divine**, sister **Celina**, nephew **Marvin** & wife **Joy**, nieces **Jan**, **JJ**, **Jojie**, **Jomel** & **Jowee**.

We request the pious readers to join her family, relatives and friends in praying for the repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Sanctuarium, Araneta Ave., Q.C.

Interment will take place on Wednesday, November 7, 2007 at the Himlayang Pilipino, Q.C. after the 8:00am Necrological Services at the Rose Garden Chapel of the Sanctuarium.

Janet Ann Shepherd

Of Ecology Village, Makati City
and Melbourne Australia

Peacefully joined her Creator on October 31, 2007
at the age of 60.

Her husband **Andrew King** and their children **Duncan** and **Reijeli**, **Rebecca**, **Jacob** and **Louise** and their Granddaughter **Isabella** request her relatives and friends to pray for her eternal rest and everlasting happiness.

Her remains lie in state at Bishop Chapel at Rizal Funeral Services, 438 Cementina Street Pasay City.

A service will be held in her honour on Tuesday November 6 at 10 am at the Bishop Chapel followed by a gathering at the Shepherd-King residence.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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"There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heaven..."
Ecclesiastes 3:11

DEMETRIO G. CARLOS, JR.

July 30, 1927 – October 31, 2007

His bereaved children **Belle**, **Joey & Malou**, **Perry & Lin**, **Dexter & Jocelyn**, **Connie & Rey**, and **Ellen & Eric**; grandchildren **Bea & Jodi**, **Aldrin & Trisha**, **Yuan & Julia**, and **EJ**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in prayers for his eternal happiness in heaven.

Interment will be on Tuesday, November 6, 2007 at the Marian Garden Memorial Park after the 2:00 P.M. funeral mass at the Duhat Chapel.

For we brought nothing into the world,
and we can take nothing out of it.
— I Timothy 6:7

Leonila (Leoning) De La Cruz Angeles

Widow of Benjamin (Otoy) G. Angeles, Sr.
Peacefully joined our Creator at the age of 87.

Her loving children: **Zeny** and **Celso**, **Ben** and **Gloria**, **Benjie** (City Assessor, Pasig City) and **Maribel**, **Danny** and **Susan**, **Manny** and **Cora** and grandchildren request for prayers for her eternal repose.

Her remains lie in state at No. 53 Women's Club Street (in front of Hulong Duhat Market), Barangay Flores, Malabon City.

Interment will be at Eternal Garden, Balintawak Caloocan City on November 4, 2007 at 2:30 pm

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Teresita Hernandez Batacan

devoted wife of Francisco "Frankie" Batacan, Jr. (†), and loving mother, passed away on the 1st of November 2007.

She is survived by her daughters, **Ma. Victoria (Cocat)** and **Ma. Felisa (Ichi)**; sister, Concepcion; beloved nieces, nephews and in-laws.

Her mortal remains will lie in state at the Ascension of Our Lord Parish Memorial Chapel, Ascension Avenue, Lagro from the 2nd until the 5th of November. A memorial service and Mass will be held on the 6th of November at 9 a.m. Cremation schedule will be announced later.

The family requests that mourners not wear black to the wake and memorial service.

They also request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

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MALACANANG, MANILA

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Presidential Broadcast Staff-RTVM, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : **Procurement of Teleprompting Equipment**
Location : RTVM Bldg., Gate 6, Malacanang, Manila
Approved Budget For the Contract : Php 3,326,322.00
Delivery Period : 30 days

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for the bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activities	Date	Time	Place
1) Issuance of Bid Documents	October 27-November 3, 2007	10:00AM to 5:00 PM	PBS-RTVM
2) Pre-Bidding Conference	November 8, 2007	2:00 PM	PBS-RTVM
3) Last Day of Submission and Opening of Bids	November 21, 2007	10:00AM	PBS-RTVM

Bid Documents including details of specification will be available at the PBS-RTVM Procurement Section of the Admin. and Finance Division (c/o Mr. Cyrus M. Reputana) Tel Nos. 734-5681/735-6187 to prospective bidders only upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 700.00 to the Presidential Broadcast Staff-RTVM Cashier.

The Presidential Broadcast Staff-RTVM assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by : **(Sgd.) Melba B. Aligaen**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Oct. 27 & Nov. 3, 2007)

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NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publication, if you are:

NAME OF BENEFICIARIES	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEMISE
1) Marissa N. Alagao	Unknown	Fermin A. Alagao, Jr. SS#02-0231258-3	August 12, 2007
2) Betty F. Arcilla	37 Mambajao St., Mandaluyong, Rizal	Antonio Arcilla SS#03-3069260-9	April 28, 2007
3) Hermolisa Rafaela Asor	Unknown	Danilo Asor SS#03-3472611-5	July 27, 2007
4) Rosie Batallones Luzviminda Tizon	Unknown	Antonio Batallones SS#03-1938586-9	May 31, 2007
5) Elsa Tablan Adelina Bolisig Virginia Dela Torre	Unknown	Alfredo Dela Torre SS#07-0504353-7	April 21, 2007
6) Carmen Dispo	Kapalaran St., San Roque, Navotas, M.M.	Leopoldo Dispo SS#03-6465333-9	June 15, 2006
7) Ma. Assunta K. Donio	Caloocan City, Metro Manila	Rolando A. Donato SS#03-4895747-5	March 17, 2007
8) Sebastiana Rosco	Sawat Bugallon, Pangasinan	Juanito A. Elenzano SS#01-0355710-4	July 14, 2006
9) Nenet Somosot Antonia Somosot Jeanette Sumasad	Unknown	Elias P. Gososo SS#03-4448463-8	November 11, 2006
10) Meliton Jacobe	244 M.H. Del Pilar, Maysilo, Malabon City	Jaime Q. Jacobe SS#03-2582074-5	April 26, 2007
11) Rosie Tepace	29 11th St., Victoria Avenue, Quezon City	Romualdo M. Moncada SS#03-4196735-2	June 7, 2007
12) Joseph Quizo Jenny Fied Quizo	J. Pacana Street, Licoan, Cagayan de Oro City	Esmelita L. Vedra-Piloton SS#08-1006429-4	June 8, 2005
13) Cynthia Ramos	642 Evangelista, Sta. Cruz, Mla.,	Isabel O. Ramos SS#03-0000742-8	January 20, 2005
14) Felicima Ronquillo	59 Villabarbaro St., Pasay City	Ernesto Ronquillo SS#03-6361126-2	April 25, 2007
15) Eva Monteniola	Panggulayan, Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro	Alberto O. Velasco, Jr. SS#03-4027509-0	July 17, 2006
16) Adelfa Gonday	Jasaan, Misamis Oriental	Enriquito C. Villanueva SS#08-0457849-5	December 25, 2006

- Nothing follows -

(PDI – Nov. 03, 2007)

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SEVERO CAJUDAY ALCANTARA

(Former Chairman of the Board and President, Dentsu, Young & Rubicam-Alcantara; former Vice-Governor and former Governor, Catanduanes; former Board Member, Colgate-Palmolive Philippines Sports Foundation; former Board Member, Philippine Band of Mercy; former Member, Manila Rotary Club; former Member, Knights of Columbus)

Loving husband, devoted father, doting grandfather, loyal friend, inspiring mentor, advertising maverick passed away on October 31, 2007 at the age of 81.

We, his wife Ester, children Baby, Boy, Lala & Cesar, grandchildren Jobo, Vincent, Justin, Micmic, Zsamie, Minmin & Rina, together with his relatives request the reader to pray for the repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Jose Rizal Chapel, Funeraria Paz, Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

A necrological service will be held on November 5, 2007 after the 8:00 pm mass at Jose Rizal Chapel, Funeraria Paz, Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

Interment will take place on November 6, 2007 at the Manila Memorial Park after the 9:00 am mass.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the Vicente Alcantara Scholarship Foundation.

Our heartfelt condolences go out
to the family of

SEVERO C. ALCANTARA

former Chairman of the Board and
President of Dentsu, Young & Rubicam-Alcantara
and one of the pillars of the
Philippine Advertising Industry.

His legacy of integrity and service will continue
to guide all of us whose lives he touched.

May he find eternal rest in the arms of Our Creator.

God Speed, Mr. Alcantara
from your Y&R Family

Graphics Design Alden Joshua Cedo

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6th Punta Fuego Water Sports Fiesta

The 6th Punta Fuego Water Sports Fiesta kicked off recently with the Sailing & Windsurfing competitions held in Nasugbu, Batangas. Windsurfers competed in five categories, namely; ladies' division, advanced, intermediate, amateur and junior (ages 15 years and below). The sailing event was launched with the Spanish food festival celebrated with a cooking demo by resident chef Mikel Arriet and a wine challenge where participants voted for Club Punta Fuego's (CPFI) official house wine for 2008. The event's highlight was the sunset party featuring a wide array of Spanish *tapas* and *sangrias*, a fashion show featuring swimwear by Waicoco and the spirited music of The Brass Munkeys.

The Windsurfing competition was organized by CPFI in cooperation with the Philippine Windsurfing Association and officiated by Wet Dreams Watersports. The 6th Punta Fuego Water Sports Fiesta continues with a Jetski competition (Nov 3), Kayak race (Nov 10) and a Dragonboat race (Nov 17). This series is presented by CPFI, Landco Pacific Corp. and Prestige Cars BMW. In cooperation with American Express, Rush, C2 Lite, Nova, Waicoco Swimwear, Eureka Dive, Body Glove, Hobie Australasia, Kabyawan Tours, Com Asia, ADP Industries, ATR Torres, Barcino Gourmet, Jetski.com.ph, Philippine Canoe and Kayak Federation and Philippine Dragonboat Federation.

Shown are winners of the Sailing and Windsurfing Race together with Tia de Guzman (marketing officer of Club Punta Fuego - 3rd from left, front row) and Manny Cabili (president - Philippine Windsurfing Association, front row extreme right) Atong Frego, Eboy Dolor, Albert Coveta, Dennis Lazo, Ken Moreno, Tono Legarda, Joseph Alagos, Lance Joson, Angela Adrian, Miguel Lazo, Jao Coveta, Jose Gabriel, Peng Hilario, Bingo Moreno, and Orly Francisco

Club Punta Fuego is developed by Landco Pacific Corp and operated by Fuego Hotels & Properties. For inquiries call 7514025 to 27, or e-mail info@clubpuntafuego.com.ph.

Barkada Beerfest at Richmonde

Bonding fun with buds over brimming bottles of beer shouldn't start and end in October. At The Richmonde Hotel's Exchange Bar, the beerfest continues until the end of the year, every Monday and Saturday from 8 p.m. until 12 midnight.

Bring a more spirited mood to an engaging nightcap with the Exchange's promotional package for orders of local beer. Get either four bottles of your choice of local beer for only P250+++ or six bottles for just P375+++. This feast of ice cold brew is best enjoyed with your pick of mouthwatering appetizers from the Exchange's bar chow selections.

The Exchange Bar also offers Happy Hour from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Mondays to Fridays and live musical entertainment from 8 p.m. to 12 midnight, Tuesdays to Fridays. The Exchange is located at the 2/F of the Richmonde Hotel, 21 San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. For more details, call The Richmonde Hotel at 638-7777.

Delectable dinner collection this month

For the month of November, The Richmonde Grill creates a unique and delectable dinner collection sure to satisfy and delight all who crave for the perfect meal.

Starting off with the Quenelle of Smoked Chicken with Wild Berry Dressing and Tomato Compote, this enticing appetizer complements your choice of main dish of either Grilled Beef Tenderloin served with Rosti Potatoes, Asparagus and Cheese-stuffed Mushroom with Red Wine Gravy or Stuffed Norwegian Salmon served with Layered Vegetables and Blue Cheese with Chowder Sauce. An ample helping of the exquisite Chocolate Mousse on Almond Tulip with Mango Coulis dessert provides a wonderful finale to this lovely meal priced at only P475+++.

This exclusive dinner offering is served from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. daily with a la carte menu also available. For inquiries or reservations, call the Richmonde Grill at 689-8419 or 638-7777 extension 3409. The Richmonde Grill is located at the 2nd floor of The Richmonde Hotel, 21 San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

The North of Trinoma

After conquering the Makati area, with its branches spread all over the city from JP Rizal up to Glorietta in Pasay Road, North Park is now set at conquering the North! In July of this year North Park opened its 18th branch at the lower level of the Mindanao Avenue wing of the newly opened Trinoma Mall.

This is the 4th North Park branch in an Ayala Mall. After its phenomenal response from mall goers at the Alabang Town Center, then at the Glorietta 2, and last year at the Market! Market!, this favorite Chinese resto has spread its wings further towards the North, a breeding spot indeed.

Now its famous North Park Toast Noodles (imagine a Nest of noodles fried and topped with a sumptuous sauce of Lapu-Lapu, prawns, vegetables all mixed in that very special presentation (not to mention taste) and has catapulted North Park to be one of the most favored Chinese restaurants over the past 13 years—is right in your newest and hippest mall in Quezon City.

How fortunate it is for the folks in Quezon City that they don't have to travel a long distance just to get a bowl of really great noodle-soup or an authentic Chinese meal that is affordable! Whether you're shopping, or window-shopping, watching a movie or just strolling around the newest mall this side of town, North Park is right there to serve you great tasting food—all the time!

Shangri-la Hotels and Resorts awarded Best Luxury Hotel Brand by TTG Asia Media

Asia Pacific's leading luxury hotel group, Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts, was named "Best Luxury Hotel Brand" at the 18th TTG Travel Awards Ceremony and Gala Dinner on Oct. 25 in Bangkok, Thailand. This year is the first time the award has been presented.

The TTG Travel Awards, presented by TTG Publishing, seeks to honor the region's most outstanding travel industry performers. The awards are determined by the number of votes from readers of TTG Asia Media. Readers were invited to vote online through the TTG Asia website or by submitting printed voting forms available in selected issues of TTG publications.

Hong Kong-based Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts, Asia Pacific's leading luxury hotel group, currently manages 53 hotels under the five-star Shangri-La and four-star Traders brands, with a room inventory of over 24,000. The group has over 45 projects under development in Austria, Canada, mainland China, France, India, Japan, Macau, Maldives, Philippines, Qatar, Seychelles, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and the United States. For more information and reservations, call a travel professional or access the website at www.shangri-la.com.

The Malayan Plaza's Suite November Deal

Treat the whole family with suite deals this November at The Malayan Plaza!

For an overnight accommodation at a one-bedroom deluxe unit at a package rate of P3,900.00++, enjoy the comforts of one of the country's most excellent serviced residence. Highlighting this treat is a gift certificate worth P1,000 from Q Bistro, the Malayan Plaza's fine dining outlet.

Included in this package are daily breakfast, complimentary bottled water, local newspaper and free use of swimming pool and Health Club facilities. Rates are valid for local residents and foreigners with ACR only until Nov. 30, 2007 and are subject o 10-percent service charge and prevailing government taxes. Late check out is up to 4 p.m. and subject to room availability. Rooms not guaranteed shall be released after 6 p.m. on the day of expected arrival.

Located at the heart of the Ortigas Commercial District, The Malayan Plaza offers furnished units that easily combine aesthetic values, comfort and functionality. Apart from featuring stylish interiors, Malayan Plaza units are also equipped with complete living, dining and kitchen facilities. Other attractions include: cable network television, NDD/IDD telephones, individually controlled air-conditioning, hot and cold water, in-room video intercom, broadband Internet access in the room, swimming pool, gym, children's playroom, housekeeping/laundry/concierge services, and 24-hour security.

For reservations or more information, call The Malayan Plaza at 706-0055, or e-mail sales@quantumsuites.com or log on to www.themalayanplaza.com.

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PROPERTY

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

Condo highlights Chinese-Filipino lifestyle

FEATURING contemporary Oriental design, this 3-bedroom model unit at Mandarin Square features earth-colored furniture that create an atmosphere of simple elegance.

By Charles E. Buban

FOR THE DEVELOPER of Mandarin Square, it is only proper that its latest 39-story condominium project in Binondo, Manila, pay tribute to the multifaceted Chinese culture that has made its target market prosperous.

"The design of Mandarin Square features proportions and formal geometric shapes which symbolize the deep attachment of the Chinese Filipino community with its culture and traditions," described Elizabeth Sison, AVP for sales and marketing of Anchor Land.

Speaking during the opening of Mandarin Square showrooms at the lower ground level of SM Manila, Sison added that the project is expected to provide the finest urban living among well-off Chinese-Filipino families especially those in the Binondo area.

2 distinct themes

For the showroom, the developer teamed up with design firm Asya Design Partners to conceive two distinct themes for Mandarin Square's 3-bedroom units.

"The 163-square-meter Unit C was designed with a contemporary Oriental touch—highlighting earth, wood and metal elements in the furniture—to create an atmosphere of simple elegance," Sison described.

She added that the bedroom ceilings and walls feature soothing earth colors that offer a relaxing ambience with their clean lines while in the living and dining rooms, with deep-colored furniture pieces that offer a nice contrast to the earth-toned surroundings.

Avant-garde look

In contrast, the 147-sq-m Unit D is designed with an avant-garde look to reflect current and fashionable trends in design.

Blending tempered glass, veneer wood and metal, as seen in the glass dividers and enclosures, kitchen cabinets, furniture pieces, as well as bathroom fixtures, the Unit D's design is indeed, unconventionally contemporary.

The living and dining rooms feature strategically placed mirrors while the walls with "floating-glass effect" to make the rooms more spacious, modern and fashionable.

"This is perfect for a relatively young and ultramodern Chinese-Filipino family," Sison said.

Innovations

Another innovation distinct only to Mandarin Square and the whole Binondo area is a specially designed one-bedroom unit with balcony for single occupants.

The high-rise condo also boasts of first-of-its-kind two-level loft units with private gardens and an easy access to the swimming pool, gym and other recreational facilities.

Mandarin Square also has three spacious penthouse units with sky garden balconies and landscaped roof deck.

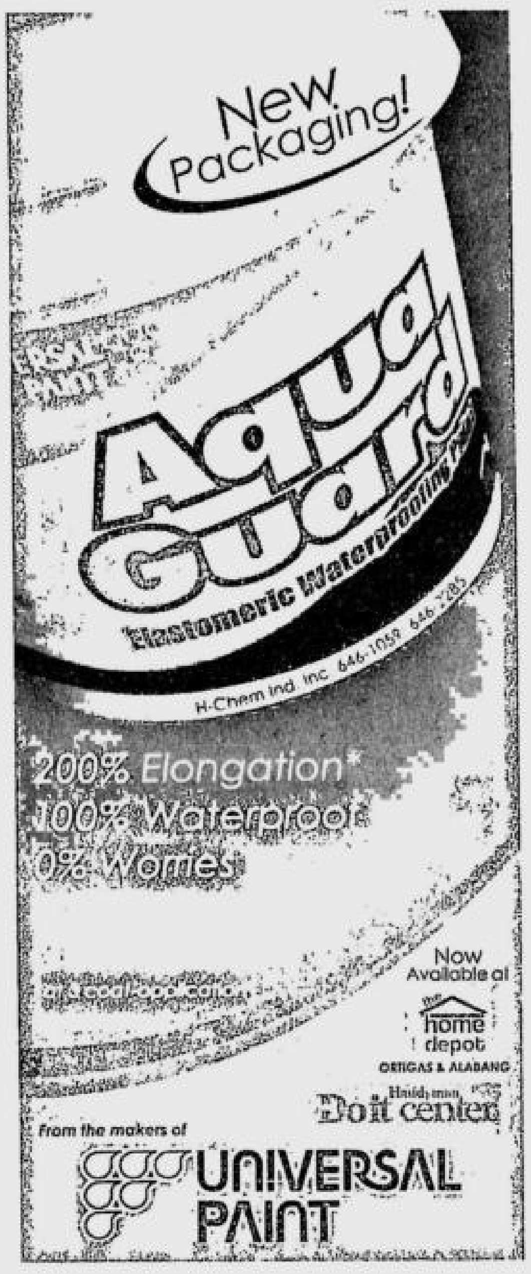
All in all, Mandarin Square will offer one-, two-, three-, four- and five-bedroom units ranging from 55 sq m to 225 sq m.

"We are continuously investing in model units because they offer a glimpse of what we can deliver to our clients. Through our model units, interested clients will be able to appreciate the life that awaits them at Mandarin Square," Sison said.

She also believes that because of these showrooms Anchor Land was able to generate 60 percent reservations for Mandarin Square's 285 units barely a year after the property was started.

Mandarin Square units are expected to be turned over by 2009.

MANDARIN Square unit's avant-garde dining room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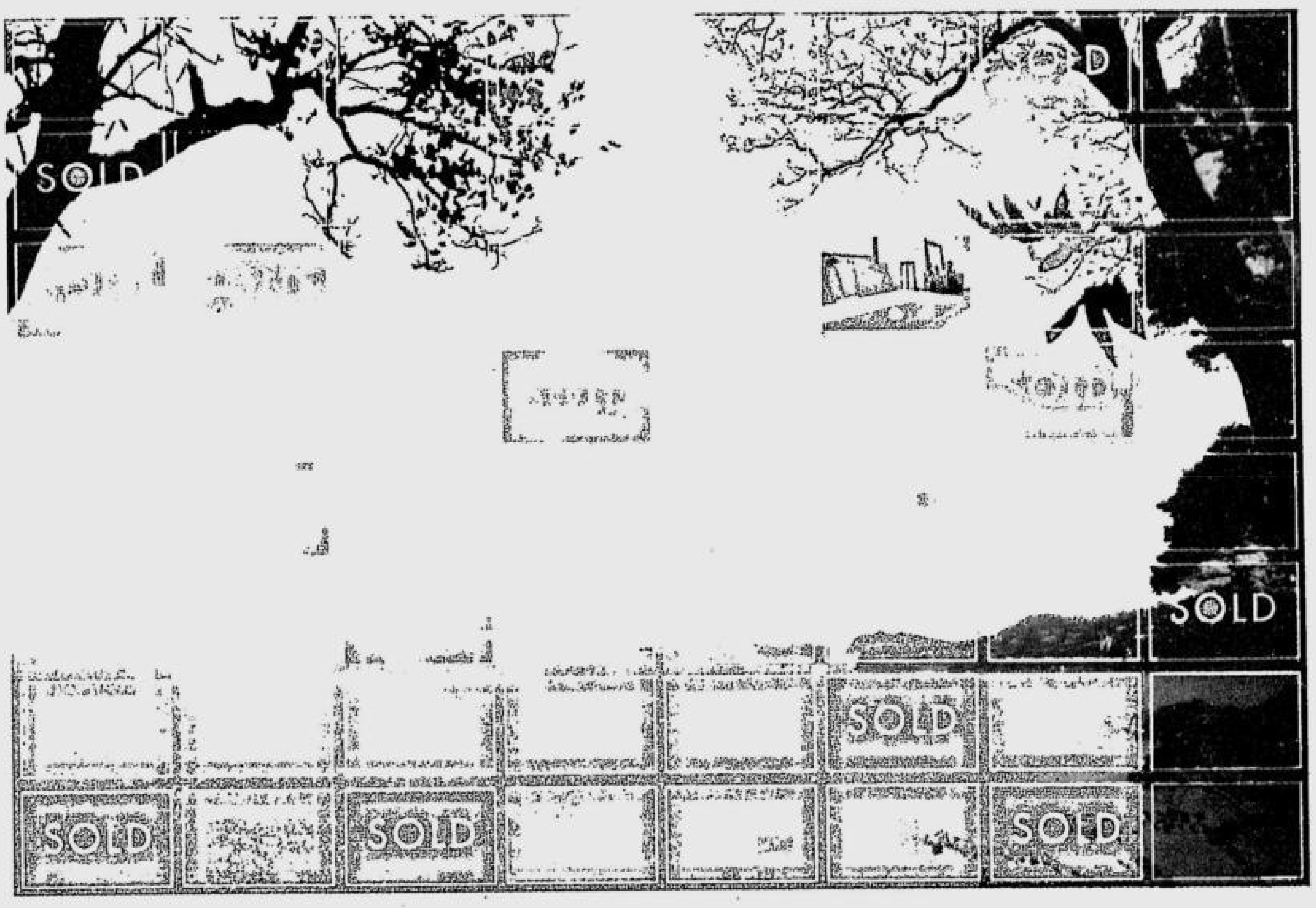

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MANY BUILDINGS WASTE A LOT OF energy mainly through inefficient lighting, badly maintained air conditioning, prolonged use of equipment and lights left on when not in use.

Wasted energy translates into wasted money for building owners. It also means resource depletion and unnecessary emission of tons of greenhouse gases.

In many instances, finding solutions to these technical problems means a lot of savings for building owners. This has been the case with several exceptional buildings that have won in the Asean Energy Awards.

Some 30-year-old retrofitted building entries in the competition managed to gain over 20 percent savings in energy, even without major works done in the building system. This was done mainly through finetuning.

What is finetuning?

To finetune a watch or a car means to make adjustments so that it will perform efficiently. It means making the necessary adjustments so that a device or equipment meets its specified purpose. This is similar to what happens when buildings are finetuned.

In buildings, finetuning or checking a building's system is part of a process called commissioning. Its purpose is to make sure that the building's mechanical systems are operating as specified so that no energy is wasted.

While it cannot de denied that the latest technological advancements can cut down energy dramatically, it has been shown that an effective maintenance program can make buildings more energy efficient with minimal or no cost at all.

It is now widely accepted that dependence on new technology is not effective without a good staff and a solid maintenance program to back it up.

Advantages of finetuning

Finetuning is a program that can be implemented at virtually no cost to the building owner. No big investment in terms of expensive equipment is needed. However, it requires training energy managers who can closely monitor building systems and constantly finetune equipment.

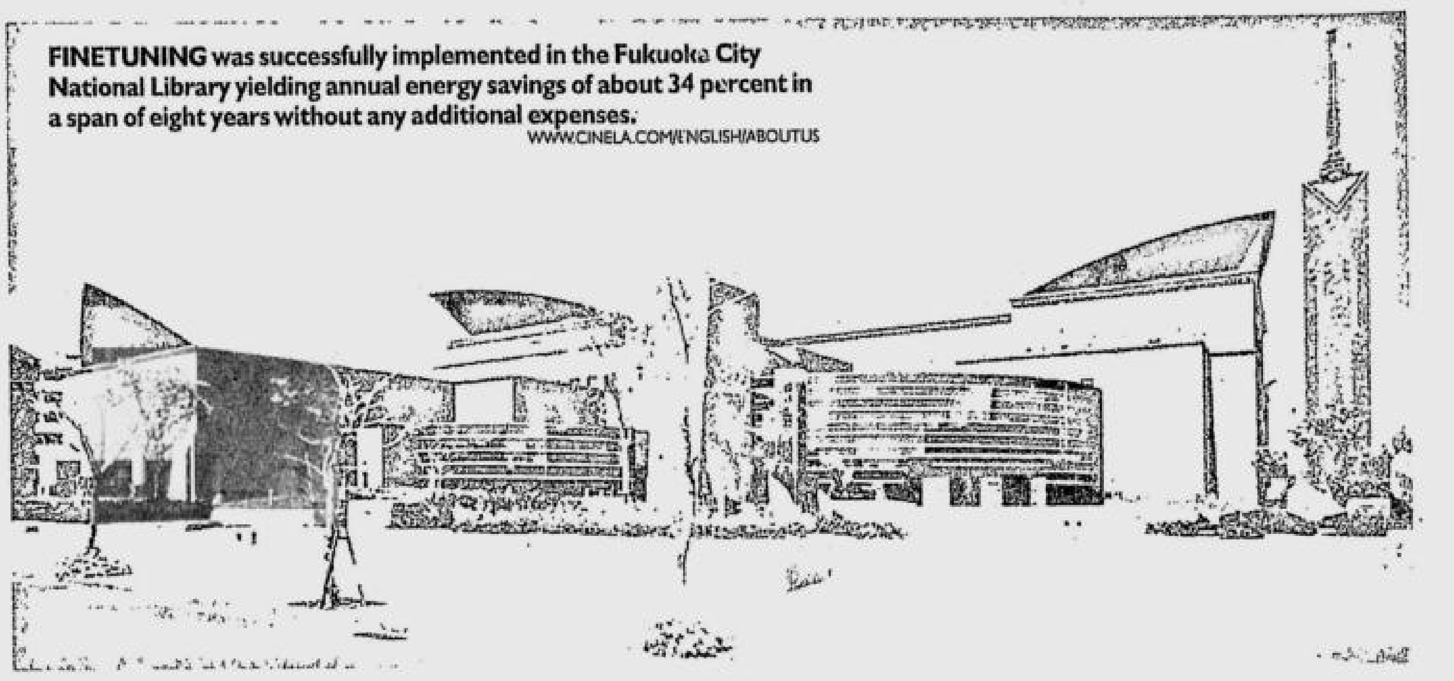
The key to its effectiveness lies in the hands of a few selected and skilled energy managers to implement the program instead of an extensive group of technicians and personnel.

Finally, finetuning can be done immediately so that inefficient building systems can be improved right away, thus reducing energy waste and financial losses for the building owner.

How it's done

A crucial element in fine tuning buildings is collecting and gathering operating data and vital information. The following is a typical finetuning procedure.

In the planning stage, it is important to establish policies to serve as guidelines in finetuning. In the next phase, the maintenance staff must draw an energy profile outlining the kilowatt-hours consumed and its expected demand in the future. The procedure for selecting elements for finetuning is determined next. Then tuning items are selected and tuning and investigation of its effects are then prepared. Finetuning and its effects are then evaluated and finally, there is actual implementation.



FINETUNING was successfully implemented in the Fukuoka City National Library yielding annual energy savings of about 34 percent in a span of eight years without any additional expenses.
WWW.CINELA.COM/ENGLISH/ABOUTUS

Examples

Finetuning can be implemented in simple cases like reducing room temperature during the hot months of the year. It has been found that increasing the temperature by 1° can yield up to 10 percent savings in energy for air conditioning. In contrast, room temperature can be increased during the cooler months of the year.

Another example would be to shut down equipment when it is not needed.

Perhaps an exceptional example where finetuning was implemented successfully is in Japan where the building systems of the Fukuoka City National Library were closely monitored from 1998 to 2006. It is a 5-story building which has a capacity to store up to 2 million volumes of books, magazines and film. Its energy savings totaled 34 percent or US$3 million for an annual savings of US$375,000. And all this was through manual finetuning!

There is a call for us to be more careful of our use of energy and to avoid wasteful consumption, for which our times will be remembered.

***

The Philippine Institute of Environmental Planners will be holding its national convention on Nov. 23-24 at the Occupational Safety and Health Center, North Avenue, Quezon City. This year's theme is "Enhancing Local Economic Development through More Effective Planning." The convention will be showcasing "best practices" of local government initiatives. Sen. Loren Legarda will be the guest of honor and keynote speaker. For details, please call Arlene Guarin-Ty of the PIEP secretariat at at 920-9705 or fax 927-3595 or e-mail piep_secretariat@yahoo.com.

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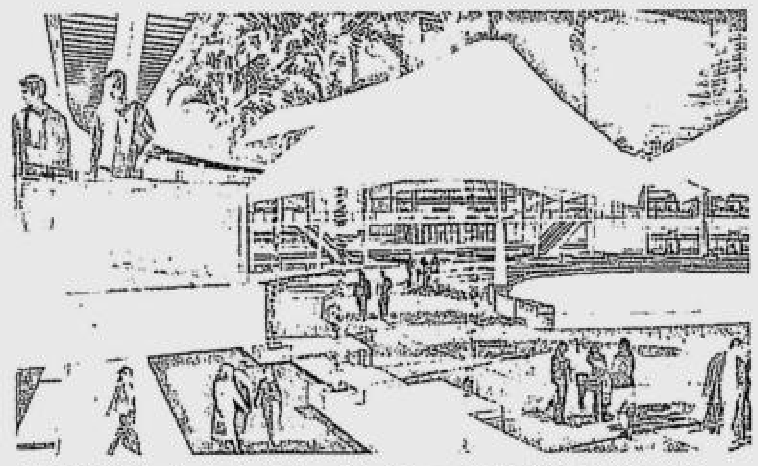
For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadodejesus@gmail.com.



LAGUNA Central, the future lifestyle center, will have upscale restos, bars and cafés in relaxed open-air environment that will surely add vibrancy and excitement to Sta. Rosa.

GREENFIELD AutoPark is the country's first automotive industrial park. It is the home of Ford in the Philippines.

GREENFIELD CITY

Rising in RP's new growth center

THROUGHOUT THE PAST FEW years, Greenfield Development Corp. (GDC) has consistently built its strong presence in the South with the continuous growth of Greenfield City—the prime, self-sustaining community in Sta. Rosa, Laguna that has long been the dream location of investors, families and residents aiming to achieve more out of life with the perfect balance of modern city conveniences amid a green environment.

Greenfield City's success as a self-contained, viable community lies in its superb masterplanning and unequalled support of GDC's expertise in various other industries, thereby providing for the basic needs of Greenfield City's pioneering residents while at the same time symbiotically encouraging the migration of more families and developing more businesses. This favorable situation is the key to Greenfield City's continuous exponential growth in the past years.

Inroads to progress

It could be said that one of the seeds of progress that GDC planted in order to jumpstart the flourishing of Greenfield City is the completion of the ABI-Greenfield Interchange in Malitlit. This seminal public infrastructure project by the Philippine National Construction Corp. with Greenfield Development Corp., Asia Brewery Inc. and the Toll Regulatory Board provided regular commuters and visitors to the South a faster and more convenient route going to and from Sta. Rosa, Laguna, in addition to the major road system of Sta. Rosa Exit and Mamplasan Interchange.

The P260-million interchange was the perfect solution to decongest the traffic buildup within the area, opening up as well better transportation and exchange of goods, services, labor force and industrial activities between the South and the traditional hub of Makati City and Metro Manila.

PASEO De Santa Rosa at Greenfield City, the sprawling commercial center continues its expansion with Paseo 3 and future development of Paseo 4 and 5 plus a transport terminal catering to the ever-growing market.

Entertainment and shopping in the South was also changed with the opening of Paseo de Santa Rosa, Greenfield City's landmark mall that provided families with more convenient options for daily conveniences and weekend respite. Paseo de Santa Rosa has grown through the years together with the communities of Greenfield City, providing the much-needed service for busy executives, families and their kids starting their lives in the South.

Paseo de Santa Rosa continues to evolve and serve the ever-growing and discriminating needs of residents, with the recent opening of its newest wing, Paseo 3. With even more shops, fancy restaurants and entertainment hotspots, there is no more reason for Greenfield City denizens to trek far to the metro to enjoy cosmopolitan living.

Jobs, jobs and more jobs

Perhaps the most important self-sustainability factor that continuously leads Greenfield City to progress is the establishment of its economic and industrial zones such as the Greenfield Auto Park. The expansive 65-hectare special economic zone is home of Ford in the Philippines.

It also comprises industries such as Visteon Philippines Corp. and Automotive Interiors Corp., which are involved in the production of Ford's automotive electrical circuits and lining interiors. These industries provide hundreds of thousands of job opportunities and reliable employment for countless Filipinos, enticing them to a stable family life in Greenfield City. More so, the TechnoPark Hotel is also strategically located here, providing for the needs of business executives and people on the go.

In addition, the Greenfield Automall is a five-hectare integrated automotive retail and commercial establishment dedicated to car dealership, car accessories and auto parts shop, driving the commercial viability of the area. It is envisioned as the new destination for car owners and enthusiasts.

The most recent aspect of growth within Greenfield City is the Sta. Rosa Business Park (SRBP), envisioned as the primary office and commercial zone of the area, naturally contributing to the continuously burgeoning economic atmosphere in the South. A safe and secure environment for families is also now complete with the opening of the Southern Luzon Hospital and Medical Center (SLMHC). The SLMHC is a top-notch medical institution and facility that will provide modern and state-of-the-art but affordable medical services to residents in the South.

With the potential demand for more office accommodation, SRBP will provide new, high-quality office spaces to meet the needs of both new and existing businesses. The commercial office spaces will be complemented with retail and mixed-use zones.

Indeed, all the fruits of progress are now being reaped from the innovative and pioneering seeds of growth that Greenfield Development Corp. had laid out the path to progress in the South. Once a quaint, rural area, Sta. Rosa is now fully realizing its potential as the country's new growth center. Just as Greenfield had laid the foundations for a brighter future in the South, so will it guide its residents, workers, business locators and investors into progress through the coming years.

Mañosa enters property development market

DINO Mañosa, CEO of Mañosa Properties

MAÑOSA & CO. (FORMERLY FRANCISCO Mañosa & Partners), one of the country's premier architectural firms, has joined the local property development market with its investment into a newly formed sister company, Mañosa Properties Inc.

Mañosa Properties is the latest addition to the country's growing property development market. It is headed by Dino Mañosa, its founder and CEO. His father, architect Francisco "Bobby" Mañosa who designed such landmarks as Coconut Palace, Pearl Farm Resort, Amanpulo Resort, Edsa Shrine, New Medical City and Shangri-La Mactan, sits as the chair of the board.

Mañosa Properties aims to bridge the gap between the creative design process and actual property development.

Because Dino is CEO of both Mañosa & Co. and Mañosa Properties, he is able to deliver the best product as envisioned by the architects and at the same time still makes it a feasible property development venture.

First project

For its first project, Mañosa Properties will soon launch "Lantana Lane," a 2,750-square-meter development on Lantana Street, New Manila, Quezon City, consisting of 16 exclusive luxury townhomes clustered in a suburban garden setting.

This elite gated community offers homes of 378 sq m covering 3 floors and a penthouse. Each home has 4 full bedrooms with toilet and showers plus ample closet space. The maid's and driver's quarters are located on the ground floor with their own toilets and baths, a rarity in almost all other similar developments. The rooftop entertainment area comes with a roof garden and an optional jacuzzi.

Just like every Mañosa-designed project, each dwelling unit at Lantana Lane has high ceilings and open areas for natural ventilation and lighting. Three of the total 16 units come with an adjacent outdoor garden. Two parking spaces are allotted per unit plus 2 more within the property.

Lantana Lane is also a "green development," a trademark of architect Bobby Mañosa's designs. Rainwater harvesting per unit and provisions for Zero Waste Management for the community, plus other environmental concepts are all part of Lantana Lane's masterplan.

MAÑOSA Properties CEO Dino Mañosa and Board Chair Francisco "Bobby" Mañosa.

Financing scheme

The development also utilizes the "Built to Own"/"Communidades" or Shared Development financing scheme. Each buyer gives their down payment to a trust account in a designated bank plus their post-dated checks of equal payments for the balance. The bank then releases the funds to Mañosa Properties and its proponents every month following a third party project manager's schedule. Buyers are therefore protected from the onset that their funds will be used only for the project.

Mañosa Properties only charges a minimum service fee for packaging and managing the project for its investor-buyers. Therefore buyers get their units practically at cost or about 30 percent less than a comparable project as done by a traditional developer.

"I am indebted to pioneers like Quito Moras of the Communidades Development Group and Gilbert Yu of G&W Architects who have been both very generous with their time and gave me valuable advice early on in putting together Lantana Lane's financing scheme," Dino states.

"Of course, I am also very grateful for the support and trust of my father, who after all is the design genius behind all our projects," he says.

Measuring stick

According to Dino, the idea of setting up a property development company has been in the back burner, so to speak, for nearly 10 years. After acquiring the needed personal expertise and seeing the thriving state of the local real estate market, he deemed it best to launch the company now.

The goal of Mañosa Properties is to become the country's foremost "pocket real estate development manager." Mañosa says, "As of the moment, I do not want huge prestigious projects but small, pocket developments where the personal touch can come in."

The company has other projects on the drawing board but for now, Lantana Lane will serve as its measuring stick of success as it eagerly enters the competitive real estate sector.

The free spirits in our worldly domains

DESIGN DIMENSIONS

Isabel Berenguer Asuncion

OUR WORLDLY DOMAINS—our homes and all other places where we have human activity—are the shields that protect our feeble souls from the mischief of the free and lost spirits. The belief is shared by many cultures and each has developed superstitions and varied techniques of overcoming the "negative" spirits and their presence in our world.

Across races and creeds, mirrors have always played a starring role in superstitious beliefs. A broken mirror is a bad omen and spells seven years of bad luck. A picture frame with a glass panel cover that falls and breaks means imminent death for the subjects of the photo or at a minimum, a broken relationship. A large or full-height mirror that is jointed horizontally, where it seemingly cuts across a person's reflection, is to be avoided at all costs. Large mirrors in the bedrooms multiply images, and especially in the dark, may confuse the occupant's soul and should thus be shunned.

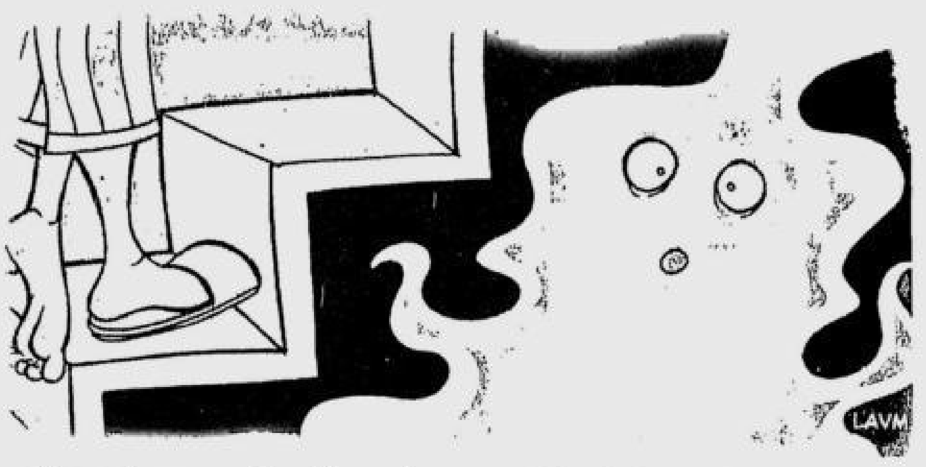
Ritual beliefs

Nick Joaquin's short story, "May Day Eve," echoes the same ritual beliefs. The lead characters believed that if they looked into a mirror late in the night, they would see, over their shoulder, the face of the man they would marry—or see the devil instead.

Counting steps by threes by the "Oro (gold), plata (silver), mata (death)" method is a Spanish tradition that suggests the fate of its occupants. Whereas "oro" or gold is the ideal and "plata" or silver is acceptable, "mata" or death is the absolute no-no. Among the Chinese-Filipino, steps are counted by pairs: "good-good; bad-bad." Thus, 22-step staircase is ideal to have the best of both cultures.

Hiding places

Basements and isolated nooks and crannies are said to be the hiding places of evil souls. These dark spaces are discouraged to avoid the *"binabahayan"* phenomena. Conversely, large doors, windows and other openings are encouraged. They not only drive the negative entities away, but also promote the entry of good spirits and positive energies.



That's why most owners of unused homes or commercial spaces hurriedly try to lease their property even in the construction or "fit-out" stages lest the souls take over and play their pranks on the new occupants. A domineering soul that takes over, after all, may be difficult to drive away.

In European traditions, May Day Eve represents the day that falls between the solar festivals of the year: the equinoxes and solstices. It marks the beginning of summer. In my case, it marked the beginning of a fear of mirrors. I dreaded to see the image of the devil over my shoulder. Thankfully, he never showed up but I never dared to face a mirror in the dark anyway. My bigger challenge for now is to deal with the diabolicals in my sphere of influence—counting the stair steps and keeping the spaces airy.

A PERFECT setting to begin a family

DUETTOS OF BRITTANY'S CARIBE

A celebration of island living

EVERYONE HAS, AT SOME point in their lives, dreamt of living on an island—waking up to the warmth of the sun, surrounded by nature, and staying blissfully far and away from the maddening crowd.

Maverick real estate developer Brittany Corp., a proud member of the country's largest home builder, Vista Land & Lifescapes Inc., gives 'island living a modern twist through a masterfully planned community in Dasmariñas, Cavite. Caribe at The Islands is part of a 130-hectare lifescape inspired by the colorful and distinctive way of life of the Caribbean.

Recently introduced into this growing roster of artfully crafted homes is the Martinique—a part of the Caribe Duetto that offers reasonably priced duettos designed for young starting families.

"Cavite is one of mega-Manila's fastest growing cities. It is home to many major manufacturing firms, multinational corporations and other commercial enterprises. Our presence there provides an opportunity for young families embarking on a new life to enjoy a higher standard of living while putting their hard-earned savings into an investment that will secure their future," declared Vista Land President and CEO Jing Serrano.

Caribe Duetto

The Martinique is an expression of the great Caribbean-Floridian communities. Its textured walls are painted in bright, island colors and accented with gable façade. Arched windows, verandas and cupolas provide a sophisticated finish. Contained within its 120-sq-m lot area are three bedrooms and toilet-and-baths, attesting to the ingenuity of the layout.

Also a part of the Caribe Duetto is the Dominique. Also designed with the same flair as the Martinique, its 105-sq-m lot area has two bedrooms and toilet-and-baths. Packages for both the Martinique and the Dominique start from P2.6 million.

"When planning for any of our developments, we anticipate every possible concern of our clients. As we position the Duetto homes at Caribe for young families, part of the package that we offer is a Duetto that is fully furnished and fully fitted. All the family has to do is turn the key and walk into what they can proudly call their own home," Serrano continued.

Residents of the Caribe Duetto can also enjoy the various amenities that Caribe offers. This includes a leisure and lifestyle area called the Paseo Park. It offers various sports and recreational facilities including basketball and tennis courts, picnic grounds and parks. The country club called Club Island will also be completed soon. Likewise, within the grounds is St. Paul's College which provides quality education from grade school to high school levels.

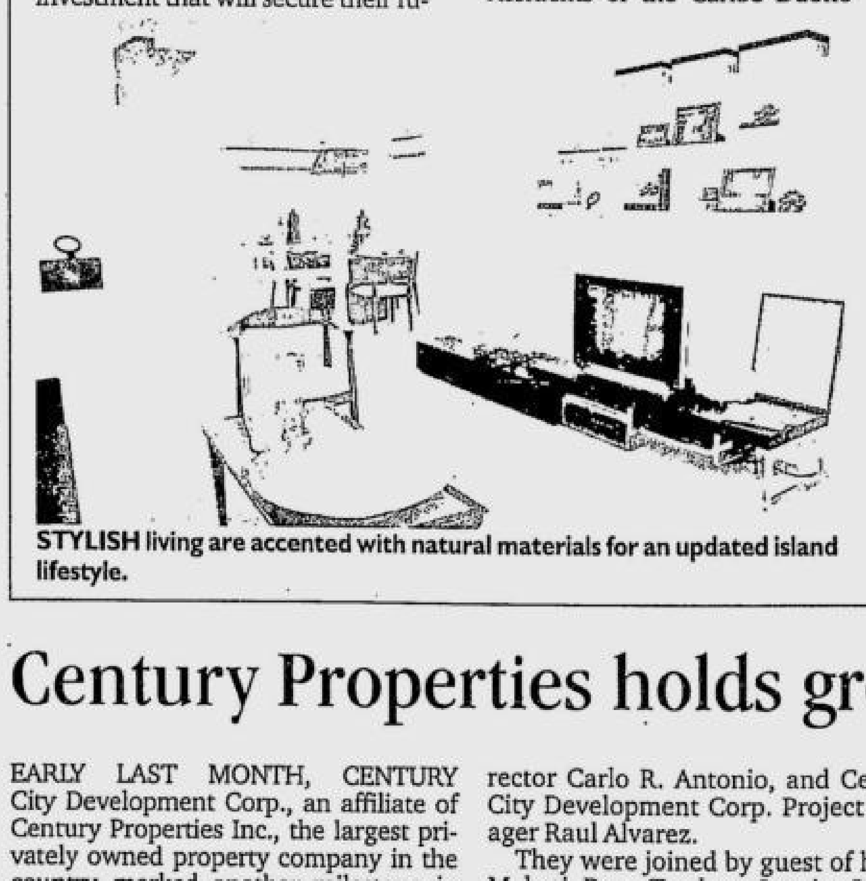
Access

Located in Barangay Pala-Pala, Dasmariñas, Cavite, residents are also nearby world-class golf course, hotels, recreational sports and various leisure activities. Schools, hospitals, malls and other commercial spaces are likewise within a convenient distance from this exclusive enclave. It is accessible through various entry points into the city including Alabang via Daang Hari through the Molino-Paliparan Road, via the South Luzon Expressway through Carmona and through the Coastal Road from Manila.

"The Caribe Duetto is really about getting started in life on the right path. With this unique development, the prime property is certainly well within their reach," Serrano concluded.

Brittany is a maverick real estate developer of innovative and creative lifescapes. Its eclectic and vibrant portfolio includes Lakefront City Central, CrossWinds, Portofino, Georgia Club, The Islands, Mosaic at Greenbelt, KL Mosaic at Legaspi, and Avant at The Fort. With masterplanned developments steeped in character, stylistic and thematic appeal, rich architectural details and excellent craftsmanship, it successfully and continuously reinvents the local real estate landscape.

For inquiries and property previews, please call 850-2868 or 850-3084, or visit www.brittany.com.ph.



STYLISH living are accented with natural materials for an updated island lifestyle.

Greenbelt Chancellor now substantially sold

MONTHS BEFORE THE START OF ITS actual construction, the 33-story Greenbelt Chancellor is already substantially sold as buyers scramble to ensure that they will be getting units in the first fully furnished condominium in the classy Greenbelt area in Makati City.

Greenbelt Chancellor signals the return of top property developer Megaworld Corp. to stand-alone developments in the area by allotting P1 billion for its construction that is slated to begin in the fourth quarter of the year.

New niche

"The fast preselling rate that we are experiencing for Greenbelt Chancellor means that Megaworld has again found a new niche in property development, which is to offer fully-furnished condominium units as a form of enticement to the market," said Clifford Legaspi, Megaworld Corp. assistant vice president for sales and project head for Greenbelt Chancellor.

Among the appliances and furniture that buyers will expect to see inside the 328 units of the Greenbelt Chancellor at no added cost are a Sony Home Theater System, sofa, dining set, bed frame with mattress, entertainment cabinetry, accent chair, bedroom closet and kitchen set.

The target market for the Greenbelt Chancellor includes entrepreneurs, doctors due to its proximity to the Makati Medical Center, and foreign-based Filipino professionals. The units are scheduled for delivery in October 2010.

Units

Unit prices range from P3 million for the 36-square-meter studio-type to P13.4 million for the three-bedroom penthouse unit.

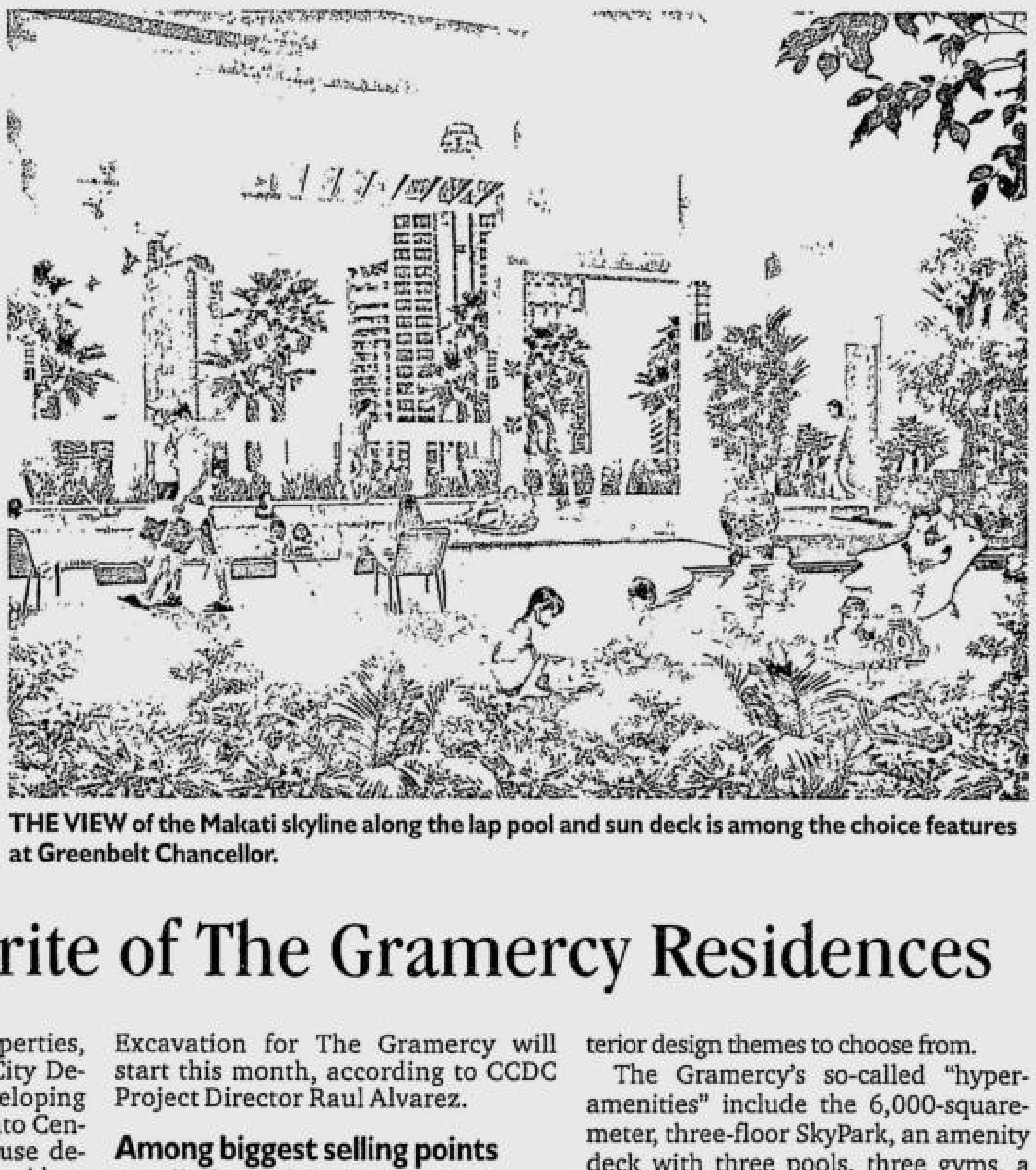
Legaspi said the units are available for as low as P12,000 per month, 60 months to pay and no down payment.

A STYLISH dining set comes along with every unit purchase at the fully furnished Greenbelt Chancellor.

Model units are available for viewing at the nearby Greenbelt Parkplace on C. Palanca Street in Legaspi Village.

Greenbelt Chancellor will be the third high-end condominium of Megaworld in the area after the successful and completed Greenbelt ParkPlace and the Greenbelt Radissons projects.

Interested investors may view the Greenbelt Chancellor's fully furnished, fully fitted, fully serviced model unit Greenbelt ParkPlace. You may also call or text 09153137409 and 09153137408 for a viewing appointment, send an e-mail to mcbd-salesservices@megaworldcorp.com, or check out www.megaworldcorp.com.



THE VIEW of the Makati skyline along the lap pool and sun deck is among the choice features at Greenbelt Chancellor.

Century Properties holds groundbreaking rite of The Gramercy Residences

EARLY LAST MONTH, CENTURY City Development Corp., an affiliate of Century Properties Inc., the largest privately owned property company in the country, marked another milestone in real estate history. It held the groundbreaking of The Gramercy Residences at the former International School Manila property, located on Kalayaan Avenue, Makati City.

Presiding over the groundbreaking rites were CPI Chair Ambassador Jose E. B. Antonio, Chief Operating Officer John Victor R. Antonio, Managing Director Marco R. Antonio and Meridien Development Group Vice Chair Ricardo Cuerva, CPI Corporate Planning Director Carlo R. Antonio, and Century City Development Corp. Project Manager Raul Alvarez.

They were joined by guest of honor, Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr. and wife Louie Locsin, ISM Alumni Office Director Stephanie Hagedorn and Alumni Coordinator Grace Choy, Barangay Poblacion Chair Joey Villena and San Miguel Village Association President Tessie M. Fernandez.

Purchased by consortium

The former International School Manila property was purchased in 2006 by a consortium composed of Century Properties Inc. and Picar Holdings. Century Properties, through its affiliate Century City Development Corp., will be developing its share of the ISM property into Century City, a sprawling mixed-use development that will contain residential, retail and office components.

True to its commitment to continue the world-class heritage of ISM, multiawarded Century Properties envisions to build an architectural masterpiece in The Gramercy Residences, the first building to rise in Century City. Its conceptual designer is the world-renowned Jerde Partnership with Filipino architectural firm Roger Villarosa Architects and Associates. Excavation for The Gramercy will start this month, according to CCDC Project Director Raul Alvarez.

Among biggest selling points

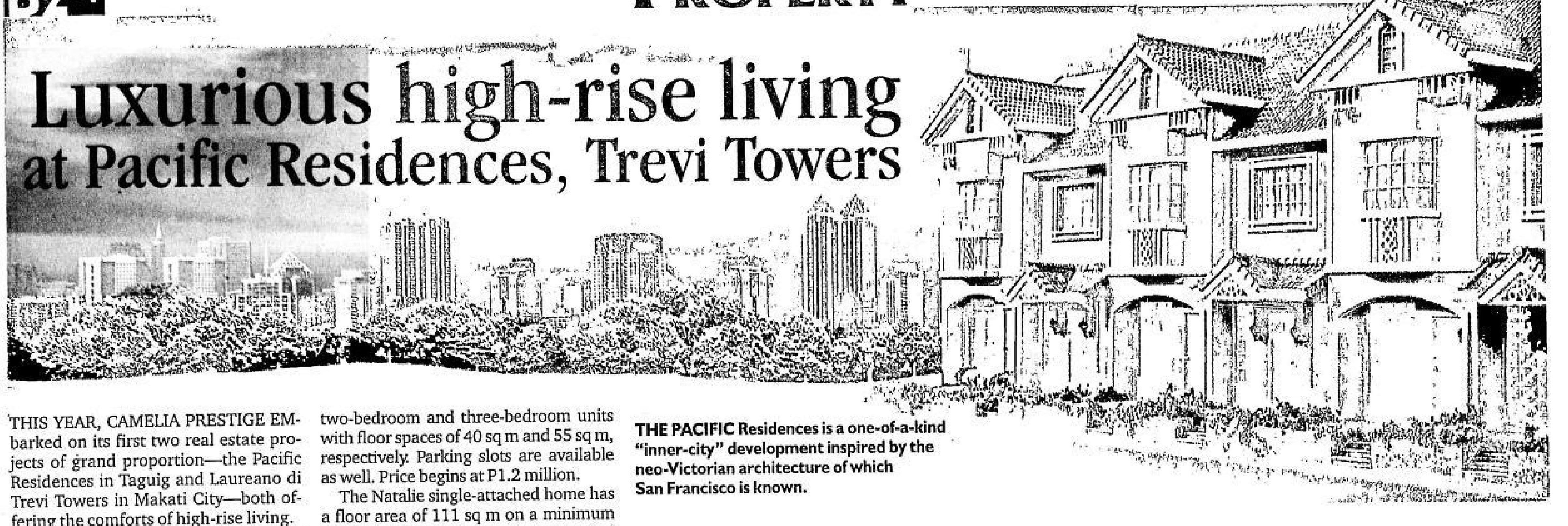
Fully fitted, fully furnished and fully serviced units, a concept pioneered by the company, are among the biggest selling points of the project. It will also feature a six-level lifestyle and entertainment center.

Named after a private residential park in New York, the P6-billion Gramercy will have approximately 1,200 residential units that come in flat and loft configurations—from a 28-sq-m studio to a 160-sq-m three-bedroom loft. There are six interior design themes to choose from.

The Gramercy's so-called "hyper-amenities" include the 6,000-square-meter, three-floor SkyPark, an amenity deck with three pools, three gyms, a day-care center, spa, DVD library and THX theater, café, book club, lounge, conference room, yoga and Pilates room set 36 stories above the ground, providing residents with unobstructed views of the Makati skyline.

For more information visit www.centurycity.com.ph or visit the model units at the second floor, Pacific Star Low-Rise, Sen. Gil Puyat corner Makati Avenue, Makati City.

Luxurious high-rise living at Pacific Residences, Trevi Towers



THE PACIFIC Residences is a one-of-a-kind "inner-city" development inspired by the neo-Victorian architecture of which San Francisco is known.

THIS YEAR, CAMELIA PRESTIGE embarked on its first two real estate projects of grand proportion—the Pacific Residences in Taguig and Laureano di Trevi Towers in Makati City—both offering the comforts of high-rise living.

Camella Homes & Communities, the preferred property brand of Filipinos and the largest and leading provider of quality affordable homes in Mega Manila through its new unit, Camella Prestige, grants a luxurious touch to residences of veritable investment. Camella is a proud subsidiary of Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc., the Philippines' largest homebuilder offering homes for all income segments and catering to different lifestyles across the entire country.

Camella Prestige is evolving real estate standards to complement the lifestyle and living requirements of Filipinos diligently working for their family's future. Every development is guided by the four cornerstones of a truly prestigious yet unpretentious residential community: intricate and master-planned design, added diversity of home options, premium location and utilizing only top-of-the-line materials.

Pacific Residences

Already under full-blast construction, Pacific Residences is a self-contained, fully integrated community with a wide collection of living options, all influenced by the distinctive architecture of neo-Victorian San Francisco.

The condominium enclave features a resort-style ambiance, has three five-story, low-rise towers offering accommodations for upwardly mobile individuals and their families: one-bedroom units with a 23 square meters of floor area, two-bedroom and three-bedroom units with floor spaces of 40 sq m and 55 sq m, respectively. Parking slots are available as well. Price begins at P1.2 million.

The Natalie single-attached home has a floor area of 111 sq m on a minimum 99-sq-m lot. The Pamela single-attached home has a floor area of 94 sq m on a minimum 88-sq-m lot.

The Queen Townhomes offers four models with floor areas ranging from 136 sq m to 177 sq m and lot areas from 89 sq m to 106 sq m. With high ceilings and modern interiors, these three-story townhomes are luxuriously spacious by urban standards.

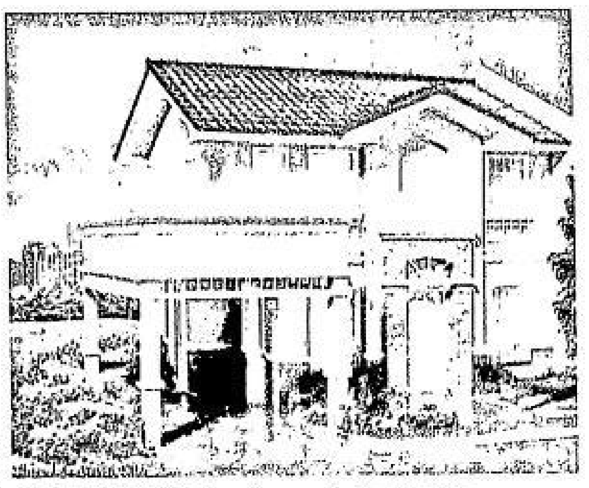
Complementing the array of residential options is a commercial area complete with entertainment and lifestyle facilities with an ambiance evocative of San Francisco's Union Square.

Pacific Residences boasts an unbeatable location in terms of value and proximity, because it is located on Taguig Diversion Road in Taguig City just off the C-5 artery, within a 5-kilometer radius of Makati. Fort Bonifacio is a next-door neighbor, with Market! Market! a short drive away. The Ortigas business center is a mere 15-minute drive to the north, with Quezon City just beyond; the South Luzon Expressway and the Ninoy Aquino International Airport are equally accessible in the other direction.

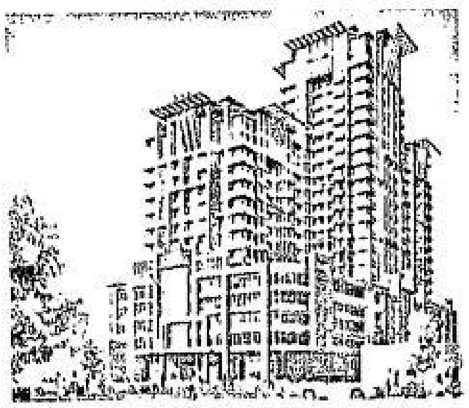
Laureano di Trevi Towers

For the career-driven urbanite, living virtually right next door to Makati's central business district poses endless benefits. The Laureano di Trevi Towers strategically located on Pasong Tamo, Makati City is Camella Prestige's second major real estate project valued at P2.5 billion. Trevi is set to meet the increasing demand for high-rise residences with its 3-tower vertical mixed-use (combination of residential and commercial units) development to span over 5,000 sq m of property.

A RELAXING retreat at day's end.



A P1.5 BILLION development, the Pacific Residences is designed for value-laden urban living.



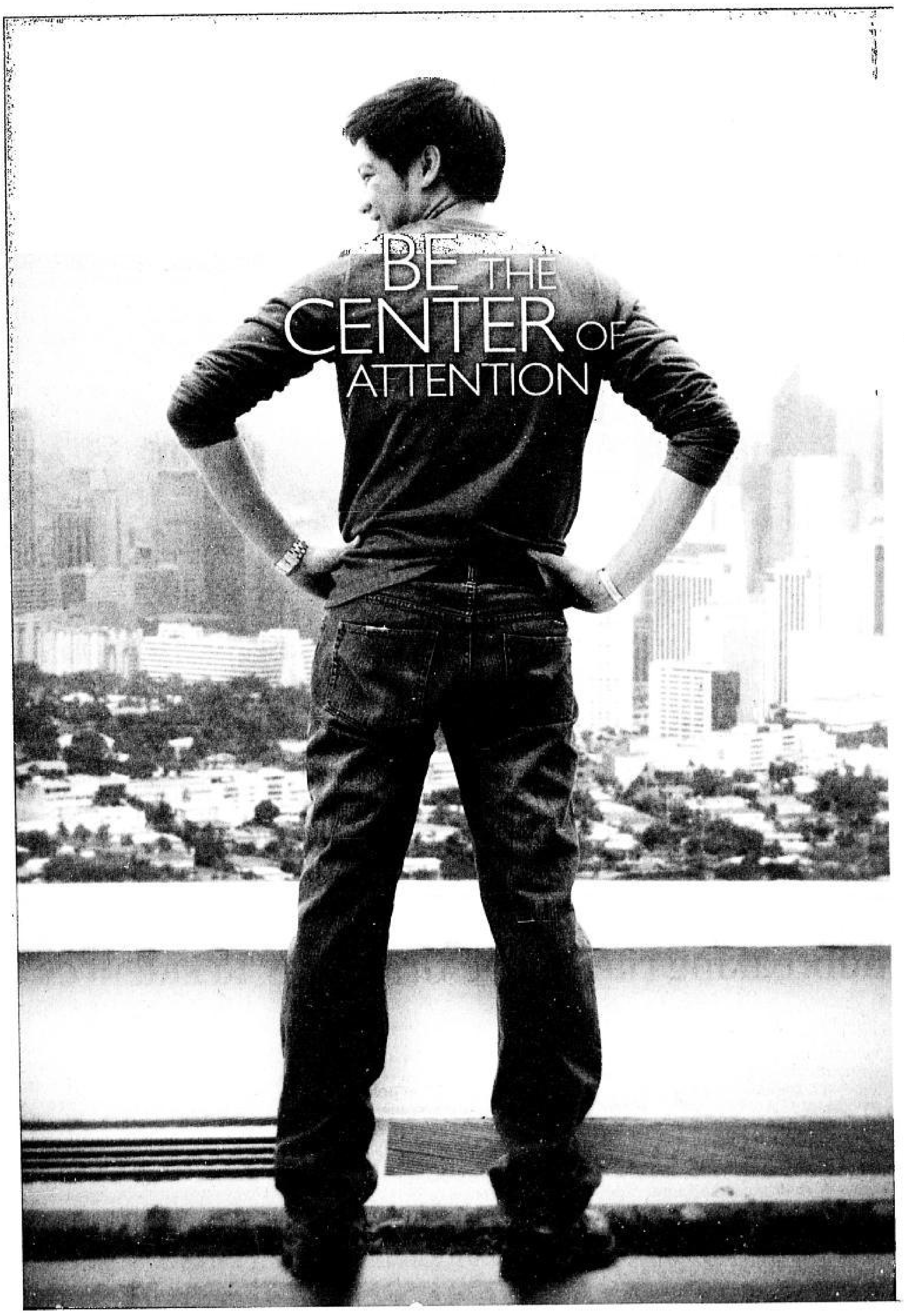
THE LAUREANO di Trevi Towers offers the convenience of residing practically next door to Makati's commercial and business district.

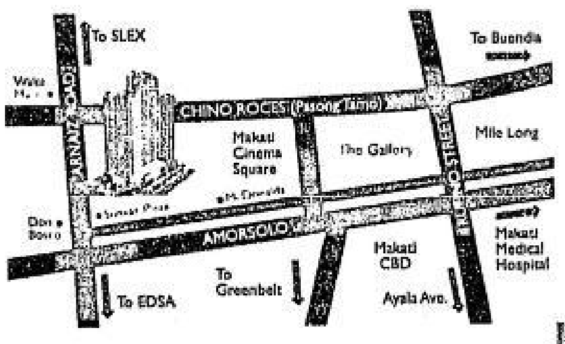
The modern architectural style of Trevi is complemented by an energy-efficient design which utilizes ventilation gratings, sunsheds and heat reflective exterior closures. Each tower is purposefully arranged to enhance natural ventilation and lighting. Over 1,000 exclusive residences will be available at Trevi: single-bedroom units beginning at 20 sq m to 31 sq m, and combined 2-bedroom units with a 40-sq-m floor area. The Penthouse units present a luxurious living option with a floor area ranging from 87 sq m to 180 sq m. Each unit boasts of a balcony. Price starts at P1.6 million.

The first five levels of every tower serve as the podium, with the ground level to accommodate commercial establishments, second to fifth floors to offer parking spaces for residents, and the podium's roofdeck to house first-class amenities and facilities for a comfortable urban lifestyle. A rare treat for condominium dwellers is the existence of landscaped gardens, promenade and al fresco areas at Trevi's Sky Plaza.

Trevi is just 5 minutes away from the Makati central business district (CBD), Greenbelt and the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), a stone's throw away from Makati Cinema Square, while the Don Bosco Technical Institute is just across. The Trevi Towers is accessible from the north and south via the Sergio Osmeña highway (South Superhighway), and from the east and west via the Antonio Arnaiz Road (Pasay Road).

"Inner-city" living takes on a new meaning and becomes more desirable with the rise of Camella Prestige's two new developments. For inquiries about Pacific Residences, call 496-2420 and 496-8032; and about Laureano di Trevi Towers, call 772-1096 and 850-4682; or log on to www.camella.com.ph.


BE THE CENTER OF ATTENTION



Unit prices start at P1.4M or as low as P11,888 a month.

Things look different when seen from the top. And when it's seen from a prime location like The Beacon, it looks even better. Rising along Don Chino Roces Avenue corner Arnaiz Avenue, this is the prime address you've been looking for because everything that matters is just close by. The Makati Central Business district, premier shopping centers like Greenbelt, Glorietta and Waltermart, hospitals, schools and churches are all just steps away.

Live here and watch the world revolve around you. Complete with close to a hectare's worth of full-sized amenities and an assortment of special services, you know that this is the star lifestyle that you've been craving for.

To top it off, being a star is now within your reach. You can finally enjoy all the perks and privileges of living like a star at a prime address. Here, the prices are so friendly on your pocket, making your home at The Beacon is a walk in the park.

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THIS WEEK SUPER MEANS ▸▸ Sementeryo • Urn • Patay • Embalsamador • R.I.P. **HAUNT WITH SUPER**

BLACK, WHITE AND GRAY MATTERS

Six feet understanding
by Kate Alvarez

Interview with the vampire artist
by Wanggo Gallaga

Bringing sexy Drac
by Tals Diaz

Vital designs
by James Gabrillo

FLY WITH SUPER ▸▸

Pilot: Pam Pastor · Co-Pilot: Katrina A. Holigores First Officers: Tals Diaz, James Gabrillo, Wanggo Gallaga, Juana Manahan, Paolo Reyes · Air Traffic Controller: Abel Ulanday · Cabin Crew: Belen Belesario, L.A. Mistades · Ground Control: Me-ann Ayos, Rissa Camongol, Lilie Lazaro

The reincarnation of Dwayne Johnson

By Pam Pastor

DWAYNE "THE ROCK" Johnson has lived enough life for five people.

His seemingly seamless transition from college football player to professional wrestler to television actor to movie star has won him fans around the world. The change has been constant—and he embraces it. "I'm very grateful to have all these opportunities and I am fortunate to be able to find a little bit of success in every genre," he said.

He chalks up his ability to adapt to a childhood spent on the road, moving from one place to another. "I lived in a lot of states and in Hawaii and New Zealand. I didn't have an option other than to embrace it and make the most of out of it. Not necessarily having the ability to buy a lot of things because we didn't have a lot of money made us focus on the most important thing which was family."

Dwayne's latest film, Disney's "The Game Plan," does exactly the same thing—put the spotlight on the value of family.

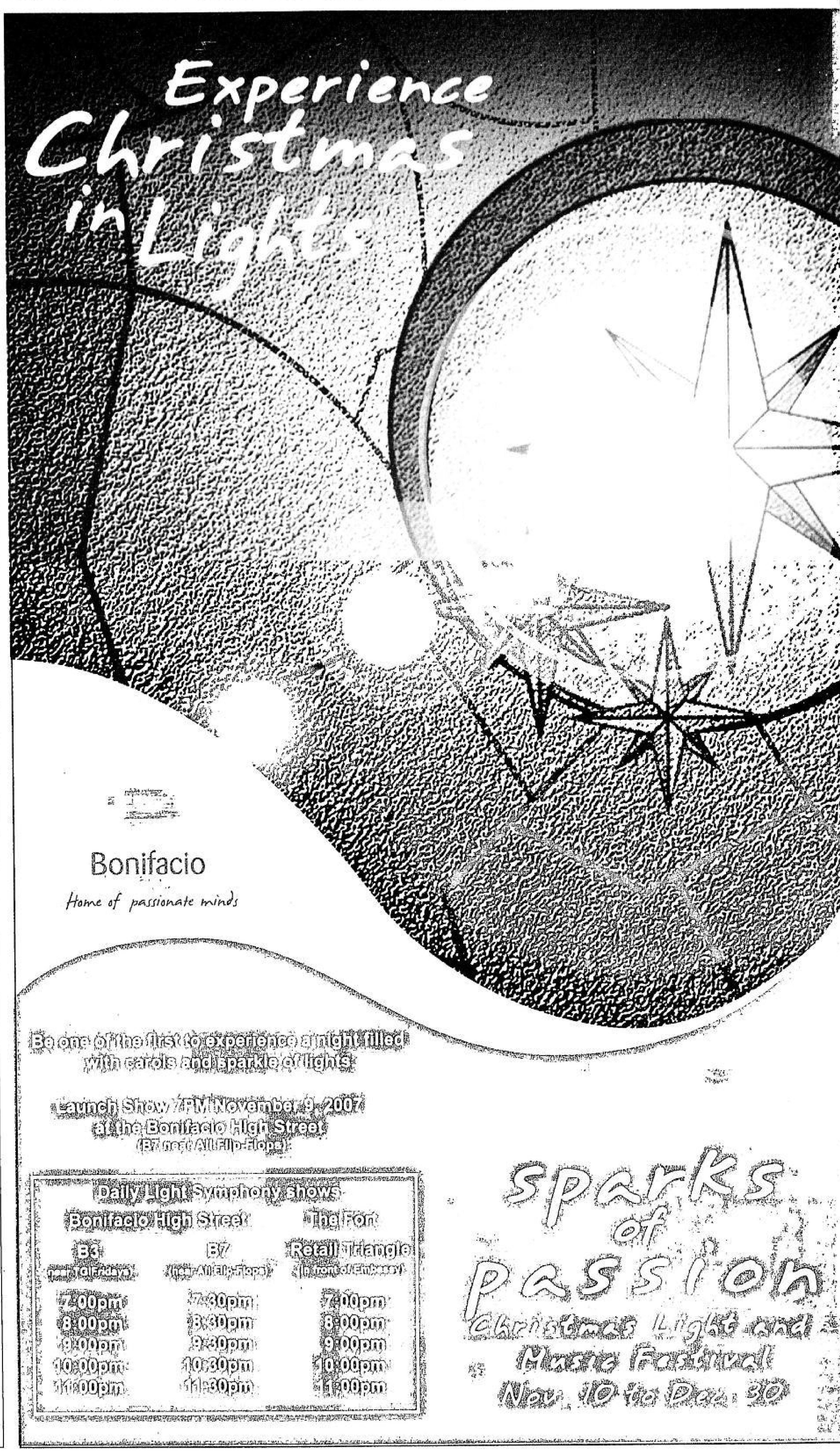
In it he plays Joe Kingman, a superstar quarterback who discovers that he has a daughter he didn't know about. Disney Channel actress Madison Pettis plays little Peyton, Dwayne's movie daughter.

Super flew to Singapore to meet the very funny Dwayne and to talk about his latest film, his real life daughter Simone Alexandra and his career's endless reincarnation.

How did you get involved with this project?

Well, the money. (laughter) Disney came to me with a wonderful idea, a very sweet, simple story about a guy who finds his first true love in the form of an 8-year-old who calls her daddy. I fell in love with the story because I'm the proud daddy of a little 6-year-old. I understand the very

THE REINCARNATION/ C2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Bonifacio
Home of passionate minds

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Launch Show 7PM November 9, 2007
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Bonifacio High Street		The Fort
B3	B7	Retail Triangle
(near TGIFridays)	(near All Flip-Flops)	(In front of Embassy)
7:00pm	7:30pm	7:00pm
8:00pm	8:30pm	8:00pm
9:00pm	9:30pm	9:00pm
10:00pm	10:30pm	10:00pm
11:00pm	11:30pm	11:00pm

sparks of passion
Christmas Light and Music Festival
Nov. 10 to Dec. 30

The reincarnation of Dwayne Johnson

From page C1

unique bond that a daddy has with his little girl.

How do you spend quality time with your daughter?

Doing little things. It used to be looking for the biggest things I can do, where can I take her, whether it's out of the country or to Disney. But as you get older, you realize that the smaller things are more important. Picking her up from school, dropping her off, going to the beach, just hanging out, taking her to get ice cream.

In the movie you built a beautiful room for your little girl, do you do similar things for your daughter?

I love surprising my little girl. I had her room completely decorated. I went to Toys R Us and bought all these toys . It's just one of those corny dad things that you do. Decorate it all pink, dolls everywhere, tea time.

Does she understand that you're a big star?

She's finally understanding. The movie was significant in our household for a lot of reasons. Number one, this was the first movie she could see, the others were too grown-up for her. Number two, she started to get it. Before, she couldn't understand. Why do people want daddy's autograph? Why do they want daddy's picture? We tell her, well, daddy makes movies, but we couldn't really show her. She finally gets it now.

How has fatherhood changed you?

I really appreciate family more. I know what it's like to be selfless finally (laughter) and I know the beauty of living your life for somebody else literally, for another human being.

What is the most difficult thing about parenting?

The challenge of saying no. And the daily challenge of raising a child is making sure they know the value of hard work, of family. You always have to set a good example. We all have that responsibility.

What was the most challenging part of the movie for you?

ON WORKING with Madison Pettis: "The truth is, the children are great to work with. It's some of the adults that you don't want to work with."

The biggest challenge for me was arguing with little Madison. There were big moments in the movie were I was yelling at her. That was challenging because I just don't yell at little 8-year-old girls like that. But I got over it quickly, especially when the paychecks started coming in. (laughter)

You had to study ballet for the movie. What was that like?

Anytime I can put on a tight green ballet one-piece that's very thin and embarrassing, I'm all for it. (laughter) We had the chance to dance with the Boston Ballet, some of the best in the world, for three to four weeks. I loved it, they were so patient with me. I was very lucky that they made me look halfway good.

Which is more difficult, acting with the dog or an 8-year-old girl?

There's this age-old attitude in Hollywood, you're not supposed to work with children or animals. But the truth is, the children are great to work with. It's some of the adults that you don't want to work with sometimes. They're cranky and unhappy and just miserable. The children are great, some adults, not so great. (laugher)

You sing to your daughter in the movie. How did you prepare for that? Are you a big fan of singing?

You just put yourself in a realistic situation. If my daughter was upset, I would do everything to make her happy, to make her feel good. You put yourself in that mindset as an actor and it was really easy.

Are you as obsessed with Elvis as Joe Kingman is?

I love Elvis. It was my idea to add that layer to the character. I thought it would be interesting. I love Elvis and I have all kinds of Elvis memorabilia. I'm a big fan.

In the movie, Joe Kingman watches his interviews again and again, do you do the same thing?

I watch certain interviews especially if I know I said something silly. I watch to remind myself never to say that again. Some interviews I do are a lot of fun and I watch them—whether it's with David Letterman or Jay Leno or Conan O'Brien. But it's actually quite the opposite. I see a lot of myself so the last thing I like watching is myself.

Super flew to Singapore to discover that The Rock is rocking his latest persona—as a loving dad both in his Disney movie 'The Game Plan' and in real life

You got injured doing this film. What happened?

I ruptured my Achilles tendon, I snapped it. For an average man, it's painful. For me, it hurt like hell. (laughter) With this kind of injury you have to have rehab for about a year and a half every day but I didn't want to lose the momentum of this movie. I called Andy Fickman the director and said I can shoot around it and that we were still gonna make the movie. I'm still "rehab-ing" today. I had surgery last June.

Which do you enjoy more, working on a comedy or action?

Comedies are very unique and rewarding. It's rewarding to make people laugh. Everybody wants to feel good. We have enough drama going on in our life and around the world anyway. I love action movies and I've had the chance to do some really cool action movies. There's this shift that has taken place over the last two or three years. I always mention these guys—Daniel Craig and what he did with the last Bond movie and Matt Damon and what he did with the Bourne series. They really raised the bar in terms of action. I love what they did.

"ANYTIME I can put on a tight green ballet one-piece that's very thin and embarrassing, I'm all for it," said Dwayne.

How do you gauge if you're being funny?

You rely on instinct. I always think self-deprecating comedy is a great form of comedy. When you are aware of who you are and what you are and you can make fun of yourself, that's important. If you're laughing at yourself, there's a good chance that people will laugh with you.

What is the one role you'd most like to play?

The one thing that I haven't done and that I want to do is a musical. Musicals seem a lot of fun.

Which actors do you want to work with?

Clive Owen, Denzel Washington. I would love to be directed by Clint Eastwood. I'd love to work with Steve Carrell, Nathan Lane, there's a ton of them out there.

Is there any movie that made you go, "I wish I did that"?

Well there's Brokeback Mountain.

Which one did you want to be?

The horse. (laughter)

What odd jobs did you have before getting into the limelight?

First job I had, I was 13, I was a dishwasher at a pizza place in Hawaii. I was making $3.45 an hour. I collected carts at a grocery store, I did telemarketing. I did a ton of things. I wouldn't change it. I call that scrubbing the walls. That's what you do, you scrub the walls, you get dirt on your hands.

You wrestle, you play football, you act, you sing, you did ballet. Is there anything you can't do? Can you even fly?

(laughter) I'm gonna fly out of here. I can't drink warm sake. It has to be cold. (laughter)I've been able to do some cool things in my life but I've had a lot of help too. I've had the chance to make good movies, there are a lot of great actors around me, great directors. I played great football, great sports, I had great teammates. Wrestling, same thing. Great pro-

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It's only bloody love

Suffering from a paranormal romance? Best to bring scary back to the modern day Glampire

OUT THE WINDOW
Tals Diaz

IT'S NOT EVERYDAY that you get invited to become a vampire.

Especially not by an ex who had just recently discovered the endless constructive applications of Facebook, like building a vampire army. Curiosity had gotten the better of me and so I took a quick glance at his most recent activities on the social virtual network since he flew back to the southern hemisphere. There it all was, his late night activities enumerated in detail as an online preternatural creature—attacking zombie ninjas, creeper werewolves and undead hunters. Man, was this guy lame! I felt a sudden rush of relief, until I realized that I was the one doing the online stalking at an ungodly hour, thereby making me far, far more significant in the pathetic-o-meter. It was yet another dimension to an old paranormal romance. I used to date a virtual vampire! Buffy and I should form a club.

Paranormal romance, a publisher once told me, is all the rage these days. It is actually a sub-genre of speculative fiction, delving on the romantic relationships between humans and fantastical beings. The most common fantasy affair of the genre, not surprisingly, is the amour between humans and vampires. Now there's all the proof you need that love sucks. (Just ask Buffy and Mina Murray.) So just what is it about vampires that females actually fantasize about canoodling with them?

twilight
STEPHENIE MEYER
Read by Ilyana Kadushin
AN UNABRIDGED PRODUCTION

LOVE BITES. Bestselling fiction about teenage vampire romance

Sexy drac

Paranormal romances are in fact one of the fastest growing trends in the romance genre. "Twilight" is one of the more popular series of novels written by Stephenie Meyer, which follows the travails of 17-year-old Isabella Swan, who falls haplessly in love with vampire Edward Cullen, a good-looking, mysterious boy who sits beside her in Biology class. She soon discovers that Edward comes from a family of "reformed vampires" who substitute animal blood for human blood in their diet. Vegetarian vampires? Now there's an eternal life of suffering!

Romanticized, glamorized, dramatized—the modern day vampire has been totally demystified, and is now the equivalent of a member of a boy band. The more prominent bloodsuckers of today's pop culture—Lestat, Angel, Spike, Edward Cullen—had taken Bela Lugosi's legacy of the 1920s and created what I call the glampire. Where's the scare when my younger teen cousins dream about being bitten for a life of immortal unrequited love?

Bringing scary back

There are no glampires in the new movie directed by Sam Raimi that hits the theaters this weekend, just in time for the Halloween revelry. "30 Days of Night" is bringing scary back, presenting vampires that are a cross breed of Marilyn Manson and great white sharks. Based on the groundbreaking graphic novel written by Steve Niles, and illustrated by Ben Templesmith, "30 Days of Night" is a bloody feeding frenzy that aims to recapture the fearful sentiment of the horror movie genre.

I caught the advanced screening the other night, and all I can say is that no sane girl would be dreaming of trysting with these bloodsuckers. The only other movie off the top of my head that had more blood spilled was "The Passion of Christ." The story takes place way up north in the compass, in Barrow, Alaska, where the sun sets for 30 days, making the darkness the perfect feeding ground for vampires. *Kuya* Josh Hartnett plays the brave Sheriff Ebun, likewise entangled in a paranormal romance, who takes on the monumental task of saving the remaining survivors of his town until the sun rises again.

30 DAYS OF NIGHT

A BLOODY long night

In the flesh

Like a happy coincidence, the groundbreaking illustrator of the "30 Days of Night" graphic novel series, Ben Templesmith, is currently in town for book signings and art workshops *(See related story)*. It is his visual representation of the horrid, bone chilling vampires that the film takes its cue from. I caught Ben in the flesh during the prescreening lunch at my daytime hangout Fully Booked, and for some reason was expecting some dark, brooding, angst-ridden artist who never made eye contact. (If you saw some of his artwork, you'd be a tad bit scared too!) I couldn't have been more wrong as he turned out to be this really pleasant and down-to-earth Aussie who shared about his taste for Guinness and tequila, and not vials of human blood. I asked him if he was used to the stereotyping that I was guilty of. Ben said that he takes all the darkness from inside and brings it out in his work, and therefore "it's the ones who draw the Mickey Mouses that you should be scared of!"

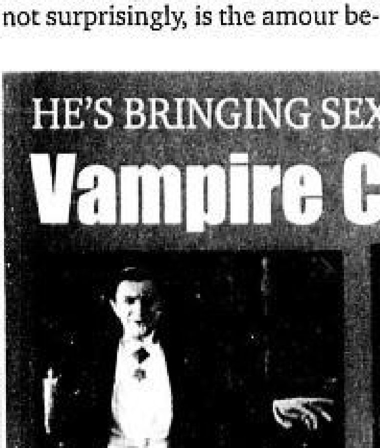
Fear revisited

What is the function of fear, then, in our humanity? H.P. Lovecraft believes fear to be "the oldest and strongest emotion of mankind." Fear exists because of an absence of understanding. It is a paralyzing inner force indicative of the darker parts of ourselves that we have yet to confront. As children, some of us are afraid of the dark; growing up, some of us are afraid of commitment; and in our golden years, we are afraid of dying alone.

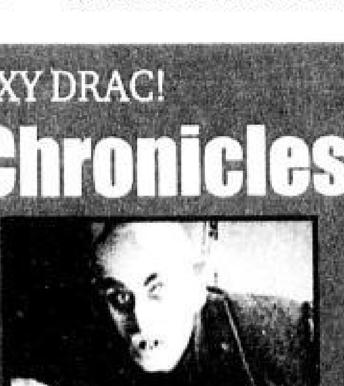
I failed to mention earlier on that my "paranormal romance" of two years ago with Mr. Online Vampire had ended because of an unshakeable fear of commitment at a time in our lives when we still had way more important things to do. I'm glad to see that we have since moved on to better things of earth-shaking magnitude, like attacking imaginary werewolves and stalking virtual vampires. Nothing scary about it at all.

HE'S BRINGING SEXY DRAC!

Vampire Chronicles: An ultra short history of eligible suckers



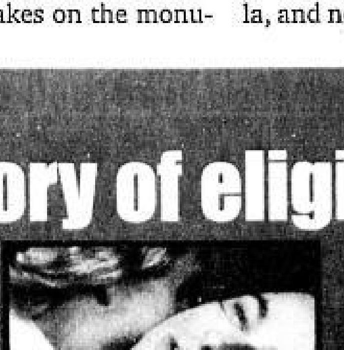
Name: Bela Lugosi aka Count Dracula
Claim to fame: Bringing sexy Drac in 1920s Hollywood
Downfall: Talk about a lifetime of typecasting!



Name: Max Schreck aka Count Orlok
Claim to fame: Lead role in 1922 German expressionist film, Nosferatu
Downfall: Most scenes featuring Orlok were filmed during the day. Duh!

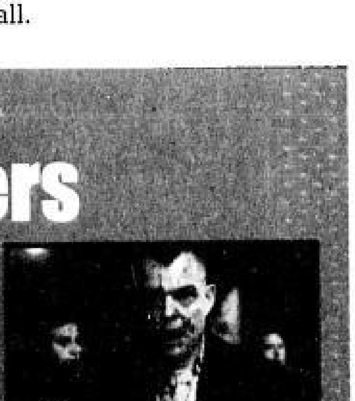
Name: Count Von Count
Claim to fame: The most lovable and angst-free muppet in Sesame Street
Downfall: His days were numbered.

Name: Gary Oldman aka Dracula
Claim to fame: The razor lickin' Count Dracoool in Francis Ford Coppola's 1992 film version of the Bram Stoker classic
Downfall: His polygamous behavior proved too much for his fourth paramour.



Name: Vampire Lestat and Vampire Louis (Tom Cruise and Brad Pitt)
Claim to fame: Homo-erotic pretty boys in 1994 film adaptation of Anne Rice's "Interview with the Vampire"
Downfall: Those dumbass fake French accents

Name: Willem Dafoe
Claim to fame: Played role of a real vampire playing as Max Schreck playing a vampire in 2000 film "Shadow of the Vampire"
Downfall: His Oscar chances are deader than a corpse.



Name: Marlow (Danny Huston)
Claim to fame: Fearless leader of the Nosferatu in Sam Raimi's "30 Days of Night" (now showing)
Downfall: He and his posse bear a striking resemblance to Marilyn Manson.

duction around me too, as well. Singing, great production, as well. (laughter)

Do you still play football?

Yes, it's called X-Box.

Your career has been compared to Arnold Schwarzenegger's—he moved from sports to movies and now he's in politics. Do you see a similar career trajectory for you?

(Imitates Schwarzenegger's accent) Well you know it's funny because you know, The Rock got into Hollywood. (laughter) It's always an honor to be compared to a guy like that who's unbelievably successful. He was always very encouraging which was nice. When I first got into acting, he was very gracious and encouraging to me. He's been great in politics. Who knows? And the difference is I'm American so I can run for president. (laughter)

What do you remember about your last visit to the Philippines?

That was four or five years ago. It was fantastic. Right before I started retiring, the Philippines was one of the last places I wrestled in. It was really beautiful, tremendous energy. Everyone was really supportive and gracious.

Can you tell us about the Dwayne Johnson Foundation? Why did you start it?

I just wanted to give back more. In our small way we've brought a lot of smiles to kids' faces. One of our programs is The Rock Toy Chest where we build huge toy chests in various children's hospitals all across the United States. We'll soon go global as well. We're gonna go to Africa in 2008.

What do you love the most about what you do?

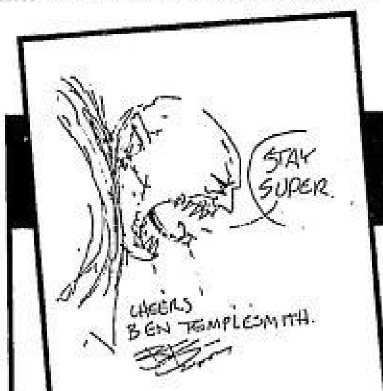
Being able to entertain in such a fun way.

What would you do if you found out you really had a daughter you didn't know about?

With those special powers I have, I will fly. Or I'll faint. You would do what you have to do, which is embrace it. But I think I would have to ask for a paternity test.

Game Plan opens in theaters on Nov. 7.

Templesmith worship


STAY SUPER.
CHEERS BEN TEMPLESMITH.

By Wanggo Gallaga

IT'S JARRING TO MEET BEN Templesmith, co-creator and artist for the gory and suspenseful graphic novel series "30 Days of Night." His artwork is far removed from the conventional clean lines expected from mainstream comics. The exaggerated human form he draws manages to convey the ugliness in people, in this case, vampires. His heroes, though, are fortunate to be recognizably human albeit gruff and hardened. With this, I was expecting to meet a Rob Zombie type or maybe even Marilyn Manson.

Instead, Ben Templesmith is a tall, wiry man with a pleasant face and even more pleasant disposition. He jokes a lot, even spills stories of how he shared an elevator with Paris Hilton and asked her a bunch of questions that eventually led to "are those breasts real?"

He claims that all his good ideas "come from a child in Botswana; you just give him a call and pay him 50 bucks and he gives you a great and original thought." He shares, with a glimmer in his eyes, some horrible, gruesome things that happened to his family which is why he draws the way he does, going on and on before smiling and telling you that he's kidding. No, this is not the kind of artist I was expecting to meet after looking through "30 Days of Night." He didn't strike me at all as the kind of person who drew scary vampires.

"I don't know if people can read too much about my personality through my artwork," Ben shares. "Maybe, because it is quick and sketchy, I'm a bit impatient and flighty." People will be trying to get to know the Australian artist more as the successful graphic novel has also proven to be a box office hit.

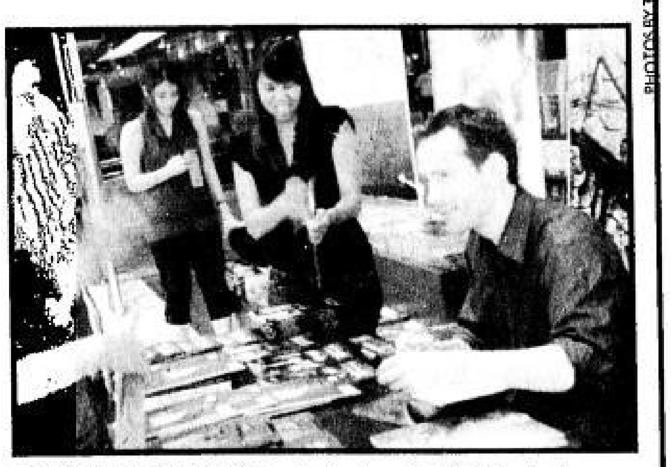
Ben Templesmith got his break in the industry by chance. There are hundreds of forums and message boards where people talk about comics and put up artwork and Ben was active in them. Brent Ash, an art director for Todd McFarlane Productions (Spawn, Spiderman) was looking at Ben's work on his computer when Todd himself walked by. Impressed by Ben's work, he offered him a book deal.

While his style lends itself well to the horror genre, Ben is working on a multitude of other things. He is working on more issues of "Fell," a popular comic that he calls " a different twist on the crime-detective genre" but he adds that it's "moving slowly because Warren (Ellis) and I are very busy people." He's also involved with what he calls an "ancient Roman thing" and artwork for a videogame called Deadspace. (To keep up with Ben's multitude of projects, check out www.templesmith.com.) Here's my interview with the vampire artist:

What is so appealing about vampires?

Vampires, in the horror genre, are considered the Star Trek of the horror genre, if you know what I mean. They've been around forever; people keep doing new and strange takes on them and they've evolved into these really fanciful and lamenting emo-goth type things. It's great for some things but it's less about being a vampire than about vampire politics. We just wanted to do something that was more old-school. We tried to make them scary, more animalistic and more primal again. Sort of like the old Nosferatu, more sinister.

SCREAM FOR MORE. Templesmith with his artwork


PHOTOS BY TA

SIGNED IN BLOOD. Book signing at Fully Booked

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Would you ever do a super-hero comic book?

I wouldn't say "no" but I'd have to do my own take on it. I'd like to have a go but I'd make 'em darker. I'd like to do Punisher. Punisher would be cool. Ghost Rider. And a character called Deadman; Deadman is kinda cool and he doesn't get used enough or used properly, I think. And X-Men would be cool if they could all be leather-clad and dark and trendy again rather than wearing the bright colored stuff.

What influences you and your artwork? TV shows or music or film?

One thing I could say, probably, is I grew up with a TV show called "Doctor Who." I grew up on that sort of stuff so my stuff is hopefully a homage to that. At the very least on the sense of humor and the not-trying-to-take-things-too-seriously, which I got from the better episodes of "Doctor Who." For "30 Days of Night," I was listening to a lot of grunge and angry music. Now, I'm listening to a lot of Radiohead and a lot of landscape type of music like Sigur Ros. Film? Not directly, not too much; aspects of some films I'm drawn to for some projects. For 30 Days, one of my favorite films ever is John Carpenter's "The Thing" and I wanted to make the artwork reflect that, in a way, to capture that feel and look.

You've ever been to Alaska?

Not yet, no. I'd like to go.

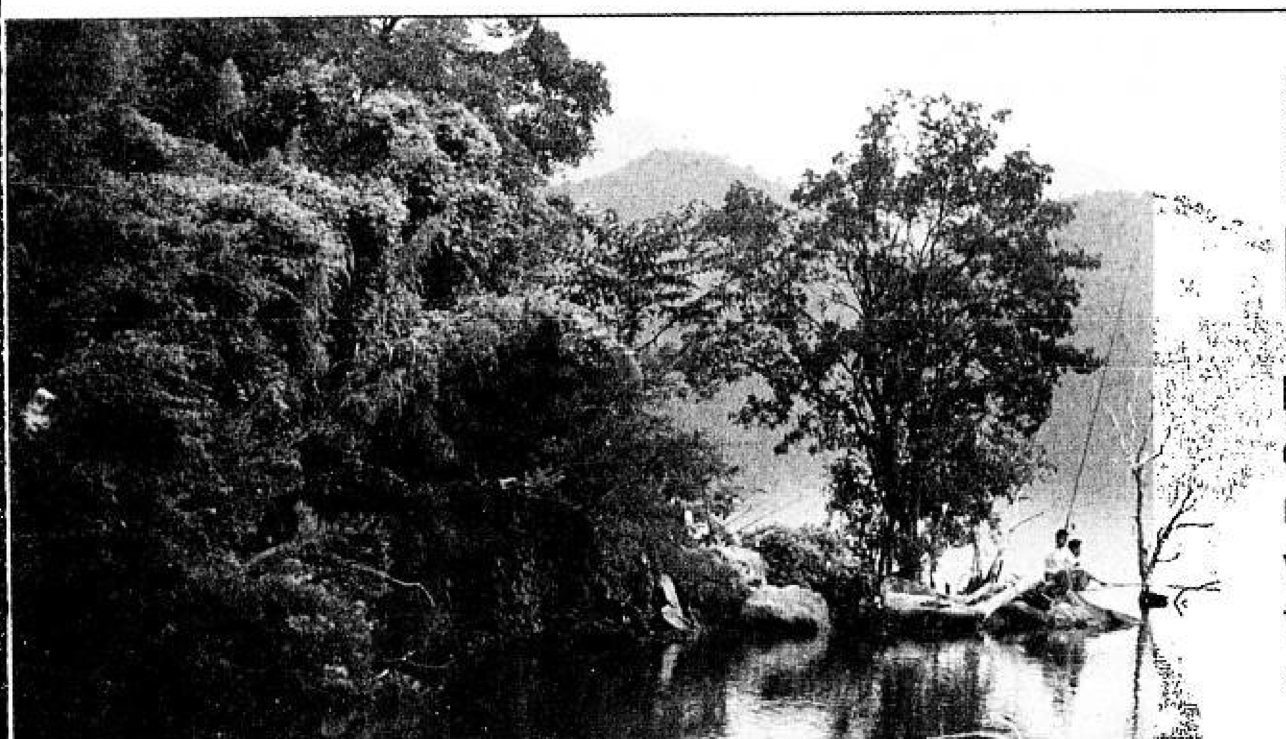
So that's an imagined Alaska? What research did you do for the comic?

Very basic research. Barrow has whale bones. It's an old point whaling town. It's not meant to be the actual Barrow. Some people were annoyed that we are not portraying the town properly and some people were just very happy that they got a mention.

Is that what you call artistic license?

Oh yeah! It's all artistic license because it isn't actually 30 days of night because it is actually 62 days of night, but 60 days of night doesn't sound as sexy.

Catch Ben Templesmith's booksigning tour: Today, 7:30 at the Rockwell Cinema and 8:30 at the Greenbelt 3 cinema. Sunday November 4, 2:30 Rockwell Cinema and 3:50 at the Greenbelt 3 cinema.



HONG KONG'S HIDDEN TREASURES

Beyond Hong Kong's bustling downtown districts, lies verdant country parkland, grassy mountain hiking trails with unforgettable ocean vistas and harbour views. Take the road less travelled and journey into the santuaries of natural beauty.

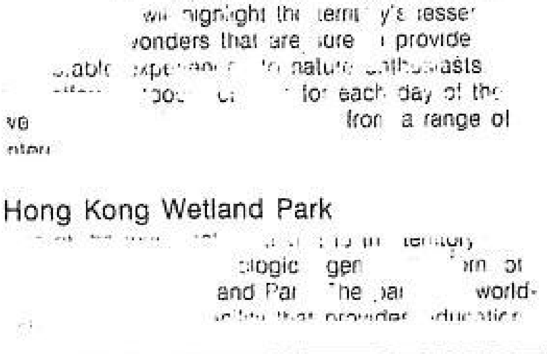
Hong Kong is a city of contrasts: East meets West, ancient heritage mixed with modern times, and interlinked cosmopolitan and green appeal.

HONG KONG NATURE KALEIDOSCOPE

[illegible] waiting [illegible] quiet and serene [illegible] destinations, the [illegible] designed the Nature [illegible] outdoor [illegible] will highlight the territory's lesser [illegible] wonders that are sure to provide [illegible] experiences to nature enthusiasts [illegible] for each day of the [illegible] from a range of [illegible]

Hong Kong Wetland Park

[illegible] territory [illegible] ecologic[illegible] and Par[illegible] The par[illegible] world-[illegible] that provides education



on environmental protection and wetland conservation in a fun and interactive environment. The 60-hectare Wetland Reserve offers an up close experience with some of its wildlife inhabitants, from birds to dragonflies, amphibians to reptiles. You might even chance upon some of the rare and endangered species on walks throughout the reserve.

Island Hopping

Another must-see tour of the Nature Kaleidoscope Program features an island-hopping tour of the Northeast New Territories — perfect for the lover of the great outdoors! The tour features stunning landscapes, quaint rural villages and unspoiled island. An amazing contrast to the fast city life that Hong Kong has been known for. The tour takes you to some of the best-preserved green areas in Hong Kong, such as the Yan Chau Tong Marine Park, Kat Chi Wo, and the islands of Kat O and Tap Mun.

ISLANDS OF TRANQUILITY

For those wanting to explore the landscape on their own, Hong Kong's more that 260 outlying islands are easily accessible, with most of them only a short ferry ride away from the [illegible]

Lamma Island

Just a half-hour ferry ride from Central is Hong Kong's third largest island — Lamma Island. The island offers a perfect escape from the city, with trails meandering along hills and coastlines, no cars and very few buildings. Bathing beaches await every traveler who seeks for a serene atmosphere and with some of Hong Kong's most popular seafood restaurants just a few walks away.

Lantau Island

Lantau is the largest outlying island in Hong Kong. Its stunning and tranquil environment makes it a famous destination for both green enthusiasts and hikers. Although famed for the towering Giant Buddha and the Po Lin Monastery, there are plenty of natural wonders on the island for you to discover. The Lantau Peak hiking trail takes you through a range of stunning landscapes — valleys, mountains, woodlands, and also through some of the historic cultural landscape of hillside monasteries and an old fort. Don't forget to make a date with some of the island's much-loved residents — the endangered pink dolphins in their natural habitat in the waters off the island.

Cheung Chau Island

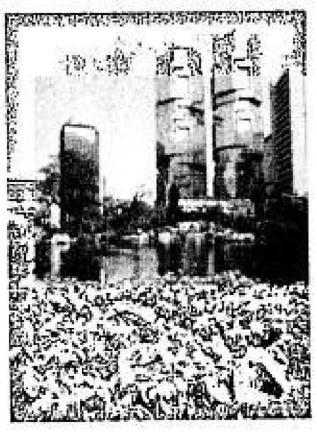
Cheung Chau, meaning "long island" in Cantonese, is one of Hong Kong's most popular of all the outlying islands. The quiet residential island is home to a picturesque waterfront that bustles with activity filled with butcher shops and vendors selling fresh fish, shellfish, fruits and vegetables, small local restaurants and food stalls. Cheung Chau is famous for its week-long Bun Festival, held either in April or May each year. The colorful Taoist festival meant to appease ghosts and spirits, features opera performances, prayers, and climaxes in a procession. The highlight of the festival is the climbing of bamboo bun-towers — during which participants would scamper up the towers and grab as many buns as possible. The buns would then be sold or distributed to those who did not join in the competition.

CITY OASIS

Right in the heart of Hong Kong lies a pocket of lush greenery. A pleasant surprise of emerald greens, lily ponds and cool mountain air while still in the city.

The Peak Walking Trail

For a breathtaking view of the cityscape, lush greenery and the magnificent Hong Kong harbor. The Peak is the perfect place to experience incredibly beautiful vistas. Start the walk at Lugard Road, near the Peak Tower. En route to the Lugard Road Lookout are panels of information introducing the geology, climate, vegetation and insects found around the Peak. On a fine day, the historic Pinewood Battery along Hatton Road gives visitors a panoramic view of the Tsing Ma Bridge and the outlying islands, including Lamma and Lantau islands. Continue to University Drive where you can take a bus back to Central. Alternatively, you can walk along Conduit Road for another half an hour before reaching the Central-Mid Levels Escalator — the world's longest covered escalator which takes you back to the city central.



Hong Kong Park

Right in the heart of the city is 10 hectares of lush green grounds known as the Hong Kong Park, where tired shoppers and office workers often rest. Framed by the surrounding skyscrapers, the Park features a huge aviary with a suspended bridge that allows visitors close contact with the colorful birds residing in the park.

HONG KONG'S BACK GARDEN

There is more to uncover in Hong Kong with its countless pockets of natural landscape. Celebrate the great outdoors by taking a trip to Sai Kung, located northeast of the New Territories. Sai Kung, dubbed as the Back Garden of Hong Kong, is a mecca for lovers of water-sports, offering a gamut of activities that include wakeboarding, kayaking, a cruise around the surrounding beautiful shorelines and even squid fishing. The Sai Kung Country Park offers more than 7,500 hectares of nature's playground for hiking and camping. It is no wonder that many tourists and Hong Kong residents flock to Sai Kung for some time off far from the madding crowd. It's an endless playground of outdoor fun!

For more information log on to www.DiscoverHongKong.com duction around me too, as well. Singing, great production, as well. (laughter)

Do you still play football?

Yes, it's called X-Box.

Your career has been compared to Arnold Schwarzenegger's—he moved from sports to movies and now he's in politics. Do you see a similar career trajectory for you?

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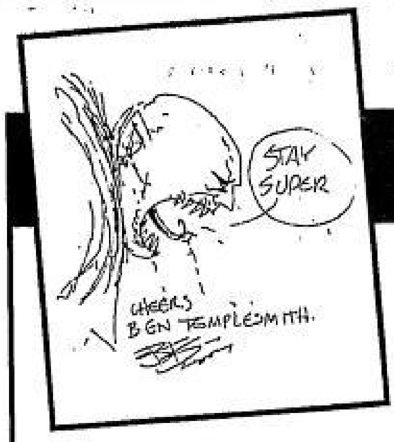

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SIGNED IN BLOOD. Book signing at Fully Booked

PHOTOS BY TAI

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Would you ever do a super-hero comic book?

I wouldn't say "no" but I'd have to do my own take on it. I'd like to have a go but I'd make 'em darker. I'd like to do Punisher. Punisher would be cool. Ghost Rider. And a character called Deadman; Deadman is kinda cool and he doesn't get used enough or used properly, I think. And X-Men would be cool if they could all be leather-clad and dark and trendy again rather than wearing the bright colored stuff.

What influences you and your artwork? TV shows or music or film?

One thing I could say, probably, is I grew up with a TV show called "Doctor Who." I grew up on that sort of stuff so my stuff is hopefully a homage to that. At the very least on the sense of humor and the not-trying-to-take-things-too-seriously, which I got from the better episodes of "Doctor Who." For "30 Days of Night," I was listening to a lot of grunge and angry music. Now, I'm listening to a lot of Radiohead and a lot of landscape type of music like Sigur Ros. Film? Not directly, not too much; aspects of some films I'm drawn to for some projects. For 30 Days, one of my favorite films ever is John Carpenter's "The Thing" and I wanted to make the artwork reflect that, in a way, to capture that feel and look.

You've ever been to Alaska?

Not yet, no. I'd like to go.

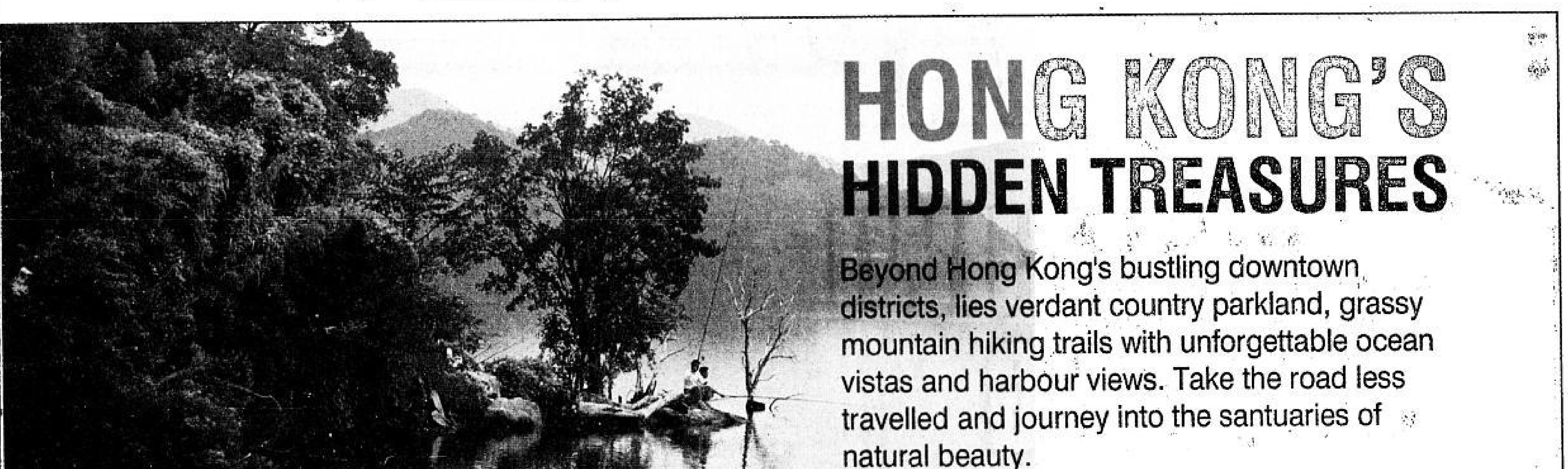
So that's an imagined Alaska? What research did you do for the comic?

Very basic research. Barrow has whale bones. It's an old point whaling town. It's not meant to be the actual Barrow. Some people were annoyed that we are not portraying the town properly and some people were just very happy that they got a mention.

Is that what you call artistic license?

Oh yeah! It's all artistic license because it isn't actually 30 days of night because it is actually 62 days of night, but 60 days of night doesn't sound as sexy.

Catch Ben Templesmith's booksigning tour: Today, 7:30 at the Rockwell Cinema and 8:30 at the Greenbelt 3 cinema. Sunday November 4, 2:30 Rockwell Cinema and 3:50 at the Greenbelt 3 cinema.



HONG KONG'S HIDDEN TREASURES

Beyond Hong Kong's bustling downtown districts, lies verdant country parkland, grassy mountain hiking trails with unforgettable ocean vistas and harbour views. Take the road less travelled and journey into the santuaries of natural beauty.

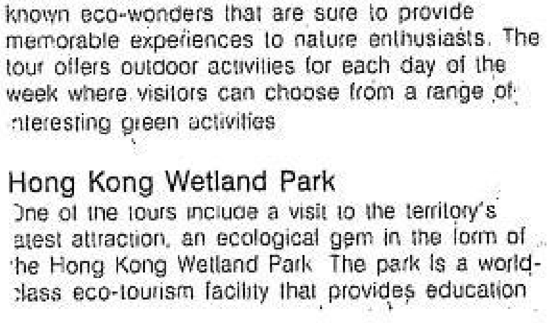
Hong Kong is a city of contrasts: East meets West, ancient heritage mixed with modern times, and interlinked cosmopolitan and green appeal.

HONG KONG NATURE KALEIDOSCOPE

Hong Kong offers a haven for nature lovers waiting to experience the city's quiet and serene destinations. To highlight these destinations, the Hong Kong Tourism Board designed the Nature Kaleidoscope Program a set of seven outdoor activities that will highlight the territory's lesser-known eco-wonders that are sure to provide memorable experiences to nature enthusiasts. The tour offers outdoor activities for each day of the week where visitors can choose from a range of interesting green activities

Hong Kong Wetland Park

One of the tours include a visit to the territory's latest attraction, an ecological gem in the form of the Hong Kong Wetland Park. The park is a world-class eco-tourism facility that provides education



on environmental protection and wetland conservation in a fun and interactive environment. The 60-hectare Wetland Reserve offers an up close experience with some of its wildlife inhabitants, from birds to dragonflies, amphibians to reptiles. You might even chance upon some of the rare and endangered species on walks throughout the reserve

Island Hopping

Another 'must-see' tour of the Nature Kaleidoscope Program features an island-hopping tour of the Northeast New Territories - perfect for the lover of the great outdoors! The tour features stunning landscapes, quaint rural villages and unspoiled island. An amazing contrast to the fast city life that Hong Kong has been known for. The tour takes you to some of the best-preserved green areas in Hong Kong, such as the Yan Chau Tong Marine Park, Lai Chi Wo, and the islands of Kat-O and Tap Mun.

ISLANDS OF TRANQUILITY

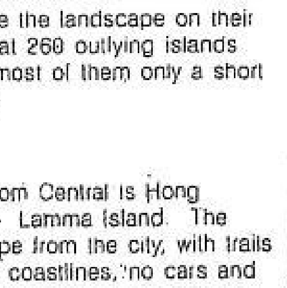
For those wanting to explore the landscape on their own, Hong Kong's more that 260 outlying islands are easily accessible, with most of them only a short ferry ride away from the city

Lamma Island

Just a half-hour ferry ride from Central is Hong Kong's third largest island - Lamma Island. The island offers a perfect escape from the city, with trails meandering along hills and coastlines, no cars and very few buildings. Bathing beaches await every traveler who seeks for a serene atmosphere and with some of Hong Kong's most popular seafood restaurants just a few walks away.

Lantau Island

Lantau is the largest outlying island in Hong Kong. Its stunning and tranquil environment makes it a famous destination for both green enthusiasts and hikers. Although famed for the towering Giant Buddha and the Po Lin Monastery, there are plenty of natural wonders on the island for you to discover. The Lantau Peak hiking trail takes you through a range of stunning landscapes -- valleys, mountains, woodlands, and also through some of the historic cultural landscape of hillside monasteries and an old fort. Don't forget to make a date with some of the island's much-loved residents - the endangered pink dolphins in their natural habitat in the waters off the island.



Cheung Chau Island

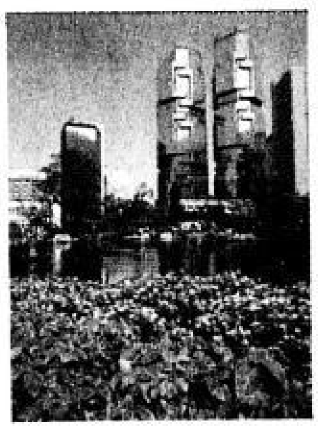
Cheung Chau, meaning "long Island" in Cantonese, is one of Hong Kong's most popular of all the outlying islands. The quiet residential island is home to a picturesque waterfront that bustles with activity filled with butcher shops and vendors selling fresh fish, shellfish, fruits and vegetables, small local restaurants and food stalls. Cheung Chau is famous for its week-long Bun Festival, held either in April or May each year. The colorful Taoist festival meant to appease ghosts and spirits, features opera performances, prayers, and, climaxes in a procession. The highlight of the festival is the climbing of bamboo bun-towers — during which participants would scamper up the towers and grab as many buns as possible. The buns would then be sold or distributed to those who did not join in the competition.

CITY OASIS

Right in the heart of Hong Kong lies a pocket of lush greenery. A pleasant surprise of emerald greens, lily ponds and cool mountain air while still in the city.

The Peak Walking Trail

For a breathtaking view of the cityscape, lush greenery and the magnificent Hong Kong harbor. The Peak is the perfect place to experience incredibly beautiful vistas. Start the walk at Lugard Road, near the Peak Tower. En route to the Lugard Road Lookout are panels of information introducing the geology, climate, vegetation and insects found around the Peak. On a fine day, the historic Pinewood Battery along Hatton Road gives visitors a panoramic view of the Tsing Ma Bridge and the outlying islands, including Lamma and Lantau islands. Continue to University Drive where you can take a bus back to Central. Alternatively, you can walk along Conduit Road for another half an hour before reaching the Central-Mid Levels Escalator — the world's longest covered escalator which takes you back to the city central.



Hong Kong Park

Right in the heart of the city is 10 hectares of lush green grounds known as the Hong Kong Park where tired shoppers and office workers often rest. Framed by the surrounding skyscrapers, the Park features a huge aviary with a suspended bridge that allows visitors close contact with the colorful birds residing in the park.

HONG KONG'S BACK GARDEN

There is more to uncover in Hong Kong with its countless pockets of natural landscape. Celebrate the great outdoors by taking a trip to Sai Kung, located northeast of the New Territories. Sai Kung, dubbed as the Back Garden of Hong Kong, is a mecca for lovers of water-sports, offering a gamut of activities that include wakeboarding, kayaking, a cruise around the surrounding beautiful shorelines and even squid fishing. The Sai Kung Country Park offers more than 7,500 hectares of nature's playground for hiking and camping. It is no wonder that many tourists and Hong Kong residents flock to Sai Kung for some time off far from the madding crowd, it's an endless playground of outdoor fun!

For more information log on to www.DiscoverHongKong.com.

Irreplaceable Beyonce in Manila

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit

IT DOESN'T SEEM too long ago when rising singer-actress Beyonce Knowles co-starred opposite Mike Myers in the third "Austin Powers" movie, and steadily conquered music charts with Destiny's Child. But a lot has happened since then, including a stunning turn as superstar singer Deena Jones in "Dreamgirls" and multiple Grammy wins for her solo work.

The R&B singer's hit 2003 solo debut "Dangerously in Love" was followed by "B'Day," which includes the chart-topping breakup anthem "Irreplaceable," as well as collaborations with hip-hop artist beau Jay-Z ("Déjà Vu") and loose-hipped Latina songstress Shakira ("Beautiful Liar").

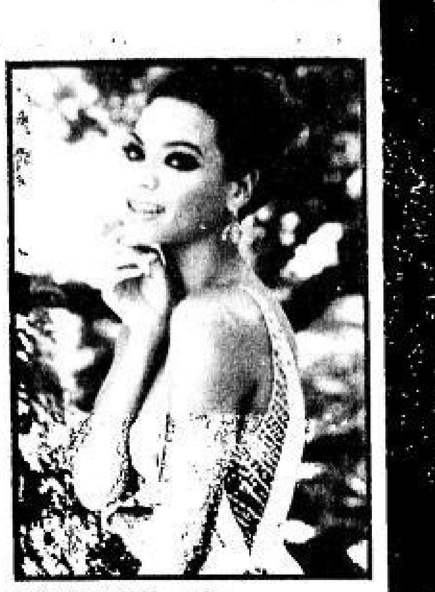
It's going to be "B'Day" for her Filipino fans on Nov. 7 at the Bonifacio Global City Open Field, as the beloved Miss Knowles will be performing her soulful, sultry music in the one night-event, "The Beyonce Experience: Live in Taguig 2007."

MTV Chair and CEO Francis Lumen, in a recently held press lunch, expressed elation over the multi-talented artist's upcoming visit.

"We are really so excited about this concert," he said. "As part of the Globe initiative of supporting the aspirations of the youth through music, and because of all the other sponsor support, we're able to make this happen. We were able to watch her last Aug. 25 in San Diego. 'The Beyonce Experience' concert here will really be a fantastic show, because she has an all-female band with her, as well as dancers that are great performers. The production will also make her concert one of the best the Philippines will see this year."

He added that it's going to be an energetic and very visual show: "The world tour show will be exactly the same as the one we saw in the US. She started it on Oct. 17 in Russia, then Romania, Istanbul, Dubai, Bombay, Bangkok. The combination of the lighting, the stage and the numbers will make the audience dance. She'll be playing the familiar songs. She allowed her female musicians to shine; their individual performances were great. The four male dancers, you can really see their abs, and the female dancers are all sexy!"

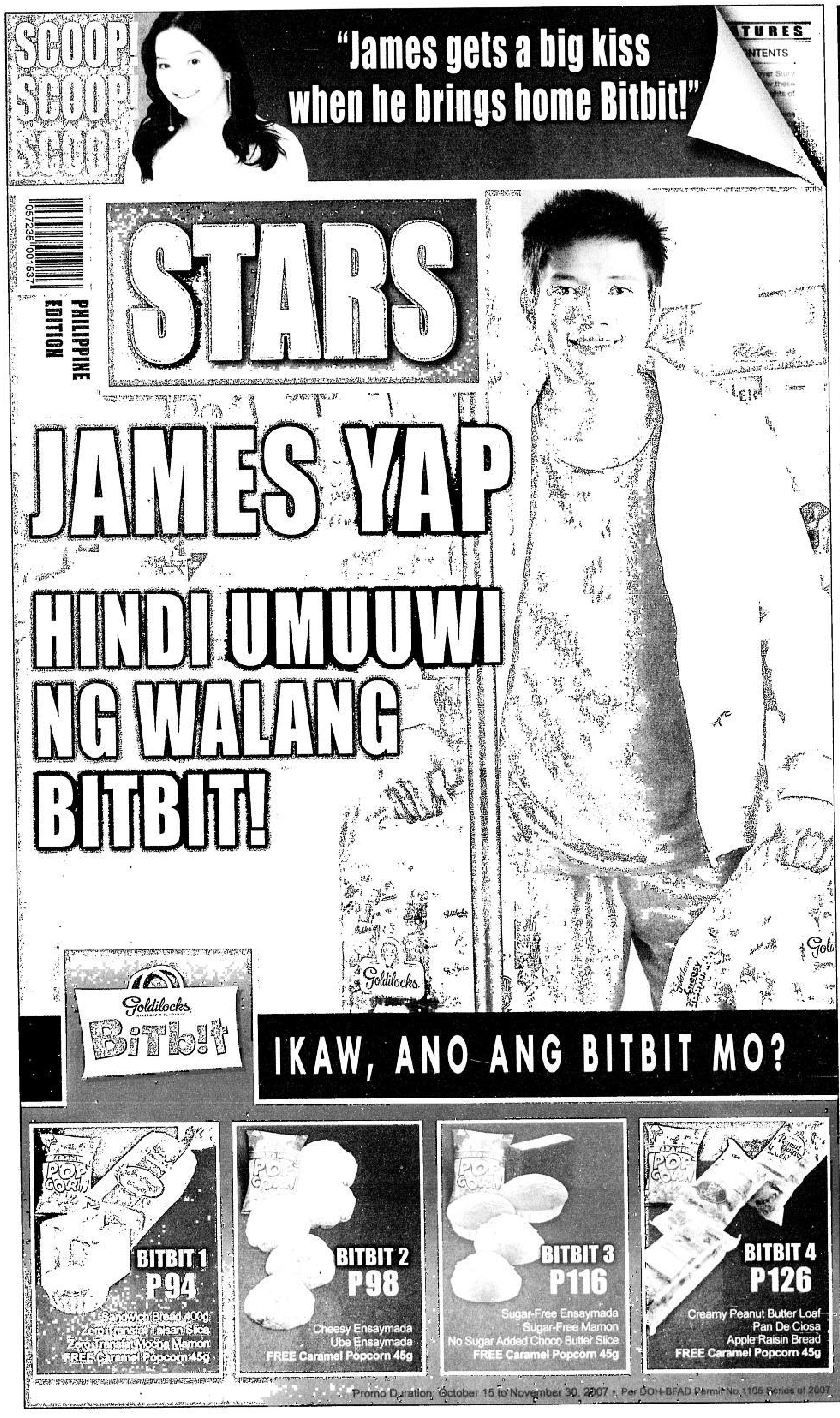
Lumen also revealed that steps are being undertaken to ensure that the show will be enjoyable and memorable for concert-goers. "We'll propose to the security to allow the audience to stand up and dance in their spots. In the Christina Aguilera concert, it was too strict."



BEYONCE Knowles

"Beyonce is such a big star," enthused Mary Catherine Santamaria, head of Globe Telecom's Segment Business Group. "The songs she'll sing are her hit song so it's gonna drive the crowd crazy. It's gonna be the concert of the year! The MTV guys were saying that she had such an entertaining concert. It should be well-attended; we actually got a bigger venue and made the tickets more affordable to give more Filipinos the chance to see the concert."

"Our subscribers and those who want to join Globe can get big discounts on the concert. By going into music, Globe is part of the passion of the youth, and our objective is to enrich people's lives, so we're making it very easy for them to see foreign artists like Beyonce."


SCOOP! SCOOP! SCOOP!
"James gets a big kiss when he brings home Bitbit!"
STARS
PHILIPPINE EDITION
JAMES YAP
HINDI UMUUWI NG WALANG BITBIT!
Goldilocks
BiTb!t
IKAW, ANO ANG BITBIT MO?
BITBIT 1
P94
Sandwich Bread 400g
Zero Transfat Taisan Slice
Zero Transfat Mocha Mamon
FREE Caramel Popcorn 45g
BITBIT 2
P98
Cheesy Ensaymada
Ube Ensaymada
FREE Caramel Popcorn 45g
BITBIT 3
P116
Sugar-Free Ensaymada
Sugar-Free Mamon
No Sugar Added Choco Butter Slice
FREE Caramel Popcorn 45g
BITBIT 4
P126
Creamy Peanut Butter Loaf
Pan De Ciosa
Apple Raisin Bread
FREE Caramel Popcorn 45g
Promo Duration: October 15 to November 30, 2007 • Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 1105 Series of 2007

24/7

By Janine Cuenca-Dario and Stef Juan

SUPER RADAR

FEELthe earth shake as thousands of fans of the *bootylicious* diva, Beyonce, troop over to the Fort Open Field in Bonifacio Global City for the **Beyonce Knowles Experience** where the R&B superstar sings and dances up a storm live on Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. For tickets call (632) 891-9999, or email tickets@ticketworld.com.ph.

Get a **TASTE** of the genius behind the bloody artsmanship of the brilliantly gory and horrifying graphic novel 30 Days of Night as **Fully Booked** brings in its illustrator, Ben Templesmith, for a book signing and a series of art workshops. Beginning this afternoon, Artists' Den Forum and Art Jame 2 at 5 p.m. and book signing until 7 p.m. at Fully Booked High Street. Tomorrow, the Limited Portfolio Review—open to all artists—from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. at Forum, also in Fully Booked High Street. And last, From Concept to Film: an exclusive artists' workshop with Ben Templesmith on Nov. 5, at the College of St. Benilde from 2 to 5 p.m. For more details, log on to www.fullybookedonline.com.

Open your eyes and **SEE** more than what's in front of you. Check out all the neat stuff that you can do with your digital camera these days at **Digital 101: Photography and the Computer**, a workshop facilitated by Jay Alonzo on Nov. 5, 6, 8, 12, 13 at the Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati Ave., Ayala Triangle, Makati City (across Peninsula Manila). The workshop starts at 6 p.m. and wraps up at 9 p.m. Workshop fee is P4,000. For more information call Cecille Cruz (632) 892-1801 or mobile 0917-559-4417.

HEAR the clinking of the silverware and the full, appreciative silence of the diners in **Mandarin Oriental Hotel's Tin Hau** restaurant when executive Chinese chef Hann Furn Chen and his team present Shanghai's most coveted delicacy, The Hairy Crab. Savor the flavors from the exotic selection of hairy crab dishes served with wild honey ginger tea offered daily for lunch and dinner in a special a la carte menu only until Nov. 18. Mandarin Oriental Manila is located on Makati Ave., Makati City. For more info and reservations call Tin Hau at 750-8888 extension 2422 or 2424.

EXPERIENCE the Old and New Testament in a matter of hours in SM Mall of Asia as **Trumpets** re-stages the Biblical musical First Name on Mall of Asia's Centerstage until Dec. 14. The 20-year-old critically acclaimed musical was the first English-language Gospel musical in the history of Philippine theater and now it's updated with a fresher sound some of its classic songs and performed by a younger cast. For tickets and booking call Trumpets at (632) 631-7252 and 635-4478.

super

E-mail: super@inquir
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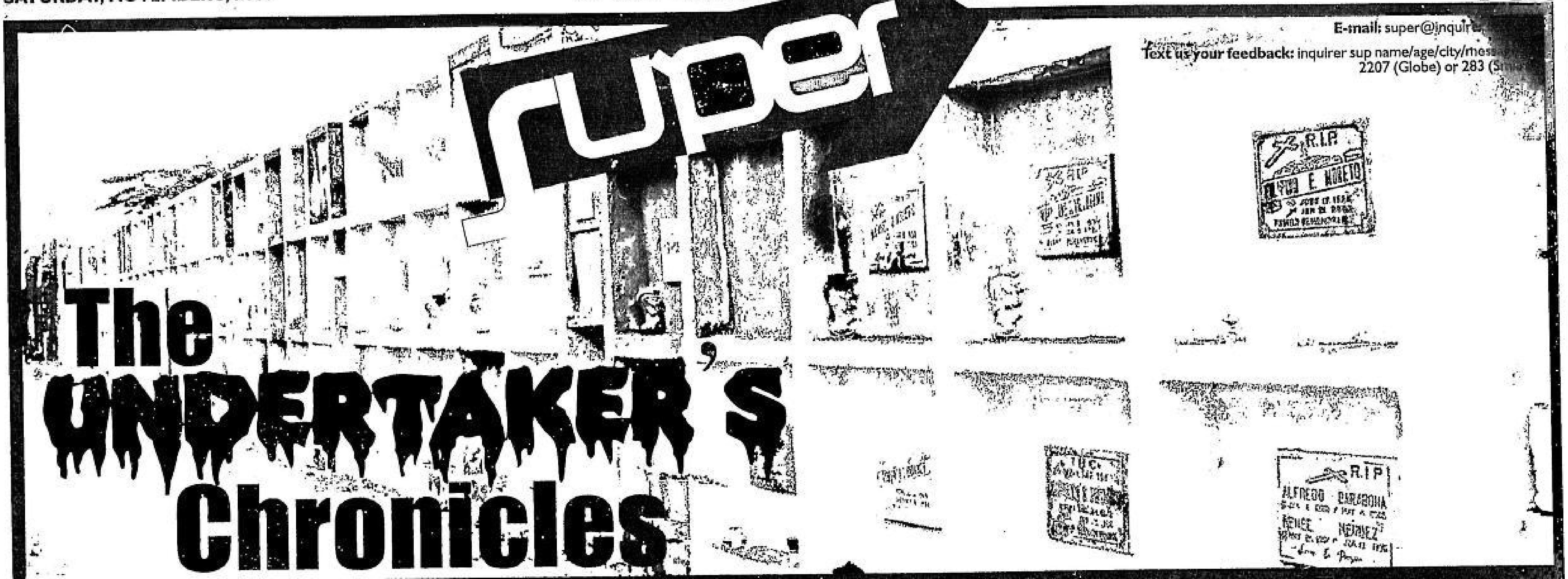


The UNDERTAKER'S Chronicles

Text and photos by Kate Alvarez

WHEN YOUR FATHER owns a funeral parlor, life is normal—until you find out that you're the only kid in class who knows about coffins and embalming.

According to stereotypes portrayed in Pinoy horror stories and slapstick movies, funeral directors are supposed to look like Kamatayan himself. To this day, local entertainment still portrays us in black clothing, with low-pitched voices and an expression resembling that of embalmed cadavers.

In real life, you won't catch me dead dressing like a Goth girl unless it was for Halloween. My family is just like everyone else's family. We pay our taxes, enjoy movies at the mall, and go to church.

Actually, my parents go to church a lot. A Mass is held before the burial, and just like wedding organizers, our employees take care of every little detail down to the flowers. If we service seven dead bodies within the week, our management attends seven Masses.

I grew up observing our funeral business from the backseat. I never directly worked for the business, but I was always curious about it. I was always listening, watching and observing. The situations and the scenes that I see find their way into my writings.

Allow me to share with you some of my favorite stories—all categorized into non-fiction.

Unsatisfied Customer

My sister was up at 4 a.m. in our house. She was at the bottom of the stairs preparing her things. When she looked up, she saw a headless person standing on our staircase. She froze, blinked, and the person vanished. When she told me what happened, I simply wondered which of our customers paid us a visit. After all, the hearses and ambulances used to transport dead bodies are parked in our garage.

Last Request

In the '80s, my uncle was in charge of videotaping our funeral services. He was covering the service of one of our customers when he noticed something very peculiar. Whenever he did close-ups of the casket or went anywhere near the dead person's body, the camera screen went blurry. When he later reviewed the betamax, he noticed that while the entire audio registered well, the video blurred only in the scenes that included the casket.

He talked to the deceased's younger sister to apologize for a poor quality video, and she was very understanding. In fact, she explained to my uncle that when her Ate was still alive, she never like being photographed. She

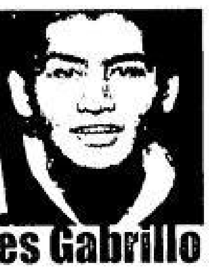
THE/D4

THE PLIGHT of pall bearers

BE THE FIRST TO ENJOY OUR
PRE-HOLIDAY SPECIALS!
Kick off your Christmas shopping early this year at your favorite SM Malls!
Enjoy great deals and special finds as we start the holidays early from
October 30 to November 4.
SM SUPERMALLS

The design cycle of demise and regeneration

THUNDER ROAD



James Gabrillo

Pop cultural understanding accelerates through consensus. But it is collision and clash that enable it to soar

THE MACHO 21ST-CENTURY stance on what amounts to "good design" now looks so last century. "Good design" is now accessible to everyone. Its definition is gliding away from the select few that have always controlled it and into the hands of the people buying and/or experiencing it.

The landscape has changed. We need new maps to make sense of it.

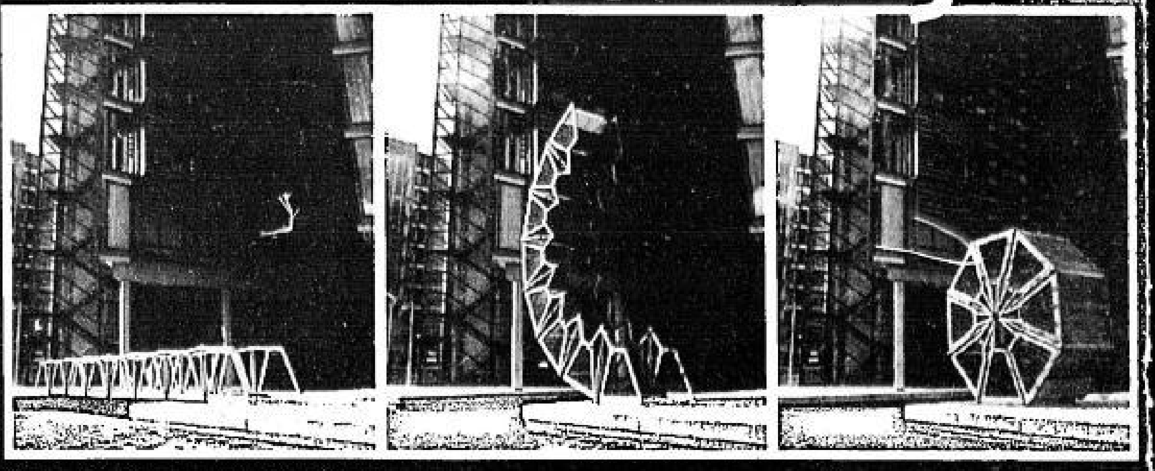
However, beyond the standards that ch-ch-ch-change every season, two elements are clearly present in today's pop pieces. They're relevant and fun. Across the globe, design thugs are defying the wind and rain to fashion a new chair or exhibition or blueprint of a cottage that'll plough the way for forward thinking.

At first glimpse, the creations might not look revolutionary, but they are. Most are greeted with disputes concerning their actual aesthetic and functional merits, stuffing exhibit halls with perplexed "UMs" instead of amazed "OOHs."

But design, first and foremost, is not only a matter of unearthing the solution out of a dilemma. It has always been a declaration, a statement about life. Planet Earth citizens have always created for reasons both of survival for the duration of life and for what comes after. This is why energies are poured over assembling pyramids.

As legendary Austrian architect Hans Hollein puts it, "A living city is in constant transformation so certain things have to change; but to make the right transition, the right kind of intervention—that is the task."

Since one can never get enough of "good design," here are four intrusions that got the attention of the world. You be the judge.

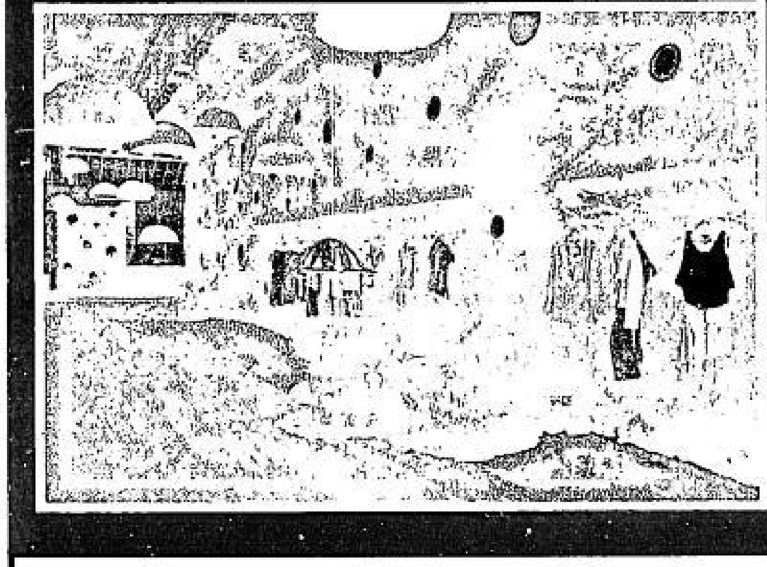


Roll with this curling footbridge

Installed across a side canal in Paddington Basin, Central London, the 8.5 m-span Rolling Bridge unbolts by elevating one end and bending it back on itself, like a snake, to form what looks like a hamster wheel.

In an interview with architectural magazine Icon, designer Thomas Heatherwick shared that he takes pleasure in watching people's reactions as the footbridge opens: "The general trend is for people to have a polite smile as they stand and watch. They think they know that it's just a straight raising bridge but then there's the moment as their brains make the connection that it's not just moving but lifting round. I have to keep a straight face so I don't give anything away."

Bringing in more subtlety while pushing things to do more, Heatherwick based his idea around building up a bridge that got out of the way less awkwardly.

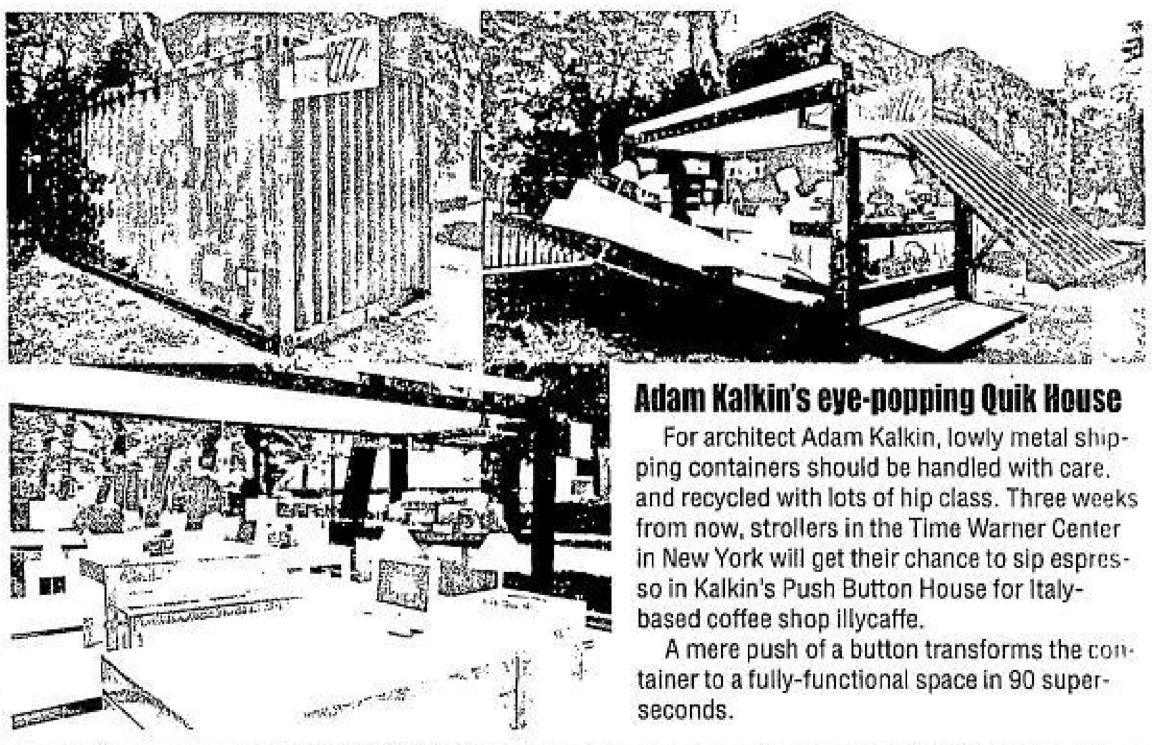


The Diesel store is full of froth

Diesel Denim Gallery New York commissioned artist Jerszy Seymour to cover up its designer clothing and classic furniture with a "scum" of polyurethane foam. Considering his Mo' Scum installation as a remedy to boring corporate design, Seymour argues "scum is about the perfection of humanity and the imperfection of brands."

Elevating rubbish to high design, Seymour's Mo' Scum used a machine to squirt the specially formulated foam that trickles before setting, permitting the polyurethane to do what it wants to do. Recently, Seymour built a Scum skate park for Tokyo Design Week.

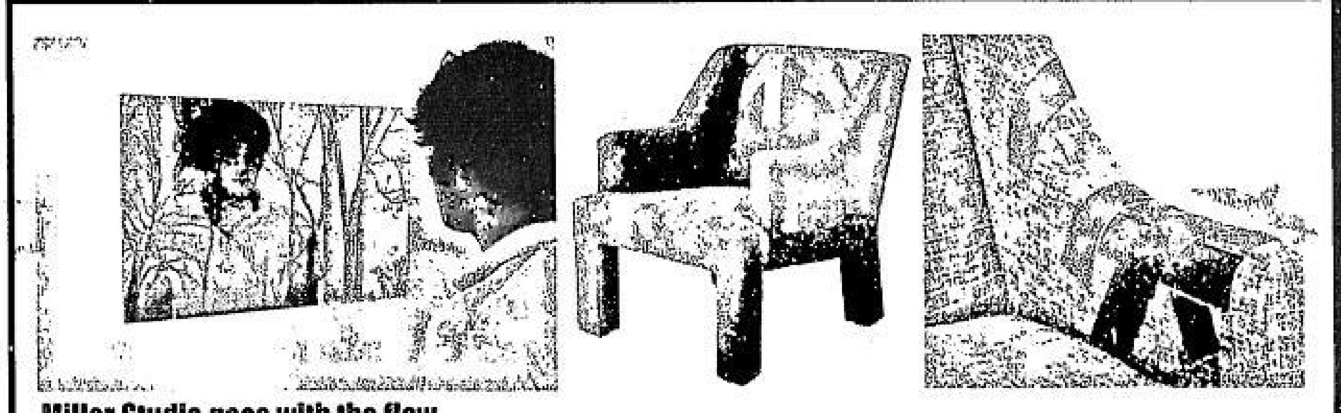
He declares, "Our society wants to be comfortable and to cut out ugliness like this."



Adam Kalkin's eye-popping Quik House

For architect Adam Kalkin, lowly metal shipping containers should be handled with care, and recycled with lots of hip class. Three weeks from now, strollers in the Time Warner Center in New York will get their chance to sip espresso in Kalkin's Push Button House for Italy-based coffee shop illycaffe.

A mere push of a button transforms the container to a fully-functional space in 90 superseconds.



Miller Studio goes with the flaw

Tweaking and adding a little curl to everyday objects, 34-year-old American designer Jason Miller created a slew of razed items that people normally chuck out of their houses—like a chair held together by duct tape, a table with a faux dust finish, and mirrors that look like they've been cobbled back together by tape.

Accenting the bumps and scars, Miller's perfectly imperfect items have elicited mixed reactions. Some are amused with the initiative, while some are just bothered at the avoidable introduction of complication.

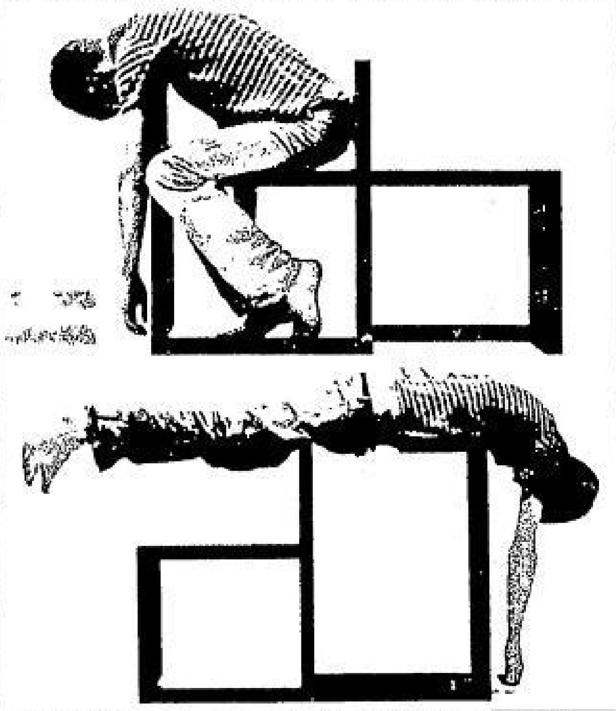
Hedi Slimane asks you to sit down

With multi-disciplinary design being all the rage, even fashion designers are getting in on the architectural act. Unsatisfied with flexing his muscles via his well-liked menswear, designer Hedi Slimane came up with a limited edition collection of furniture, sold exclusively at the Comme des Garcons store in London. With lines and proportions inspired from Neo-Classical 18th-century French furniture, the collection's a hit.

"I always thought fashion, and particularly men's fashion design, could link naturally to any form of design," Slimane said in a press conference in London. "There is very little difference between a suit and a chair. It's all about line and proportion."

But is Slimane's collection an addition to a minimalist Versailles or just an extra accessory to implausibly high-priced modern-day living?

Um.



INFERIORITY COMPLEX

I'll be back

By Katrina A. Holigores

THE SUBJECT OF REINCARNATION is always one that elicits controversy, especially in a country that is seeped in beliefs from Western type religious institutions. It's OK to watch what will unfold on the big screen when someone returns from the "grave" into another body, but the acceptance of it happening off screen can be positively creepy for most, and just too unbelievable for the rest.

Personally, I've always believed in being born "again" and again and again and again. There are too many déjà vu moments in my own life that have led me to think that this can't have been my first (or second) time on this earth. Recently, I've come across two books, which have expanded my knowledge and interest on the subject—they are both quite different in nature and their authors would probably have an endless debate if they had a face-off about their method of study and research; but the books were enlightening nevertheless.

In between the lives

The first book, written by Dr. Michael Newton who is a noted psychotherapist, chronicles almost 30 case studies in which he would hypnotize his patients to see what they would "do" in their lives between lives.

The second book, Wheels of a Soul, was written by Kabbalist Rav PS Berg and I was fortunate enough to attend a Kabbalah Seminar on Reincarnation by David Ghiyam in Manila two weeks ago.

Dr. Michael Newton used "spiritual hypnotherapy" and acted as a guide as he listened to his patients' descriptions of what they did after they had left a previous body and proceeded to the spirit world. Their journey and what happened to them next was dependent on their level of spiritually, literally. The younger and more inexperienced the soul was, the more difficult time it had (initially) adjusting to leaving the physical plane. But once it entered a higher dimension it was either "met" by its spirit guide (usually in the form of a loved one during a more current past life or further back) or other soul brothers and sisters that it had met along its way (again both in the most recent past life—or an older one).

Spirits or souls (according to this book at least) actually had their own social groups and classrooms. Upon their return to the spirit dimension they had their life "evaluated" to see if they had achieved a predetermined state of learning or even teaching (all the souls' lives on earth were apparently intertwined).

They were then given their next choice of body to occupy and to continue learning and "teaching" other souls that would also play a part in this next life.

The book was actually a very touching albeit emotional read and I feel that anyone who has recently lost a loved one would most probably be given some relief to know (if everything in the book is indeed true) that the person they miss dearly is in a better place and the chances to be reunited with them in another human form or relationship in the future is very possible.

We want to know you inside and out. Find out ways to see what can make your insides tick and tock. From the tangible to the intangible we look at life from every standpoint and keep an open mind and a SUPER open heart

Round and round it goes

The topic of reincarnation on the other hand during the lecture I attended was of a more advanced level. I have only read a few books on Kabbalah and I have to admit that a lot of the teaching and subject matter makes a lot of sense, in a more cerebral and technical way. David Ghiyam had to first give a very basic "refresher" to the first time lecture goers on Kabbalah, and I fear that if you, the reader are not familiar with Kabbalah that reading this book will make you raise one or two more eyebrows. So, I will stick to what made the most sense to me.

We come back to this earth according to the Kabbalists, for a purpose, to correct what is known as our tikkune which is probably best explained as our karmic backpack from a past life.

Adam and Eve, are represented as the first two original souls—the ying and the yang, or the male and the female. Their "souls" in order to fix their tikkune was broken up into a million other souls, and these in turn were broken into more and more souls, all with the single purpose of eventually trying to correct the first "tikkune" of Adam and Eve.

Basically we are all souls on earth who are trying to help one another out to eventually become whole again and return to the creator, or the source of light.

What struck me the most about learning reincarnation through Kabbalah is that if we do not correct or elevate ourselves in this life, there is a very strong possibility that we may actually be reborn as a lower life form ... yup, something that "desires" less if we do not learn how to transform into a being of sharing rather than receiving in our current life.

I would recommend that one have a proper introduction to the philosophies behind Kabbalah before reading Wheels of a Soul.

Next stop

Yes, I know, that's a lot of information to handle (for both the more emotionally inclined and the more scientifically inclined). What I feel is that if you are not completely opposed to the idea that you've been here before, chances are you do believe in reincarnation, or would like to believe at least in another lifetime opportunity.

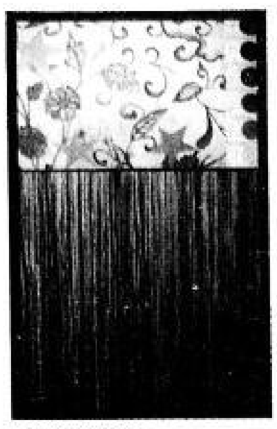
Both books talked about healing, helping, sharing and a purpose for returning that had to be based on something bigger than just one's individual life.

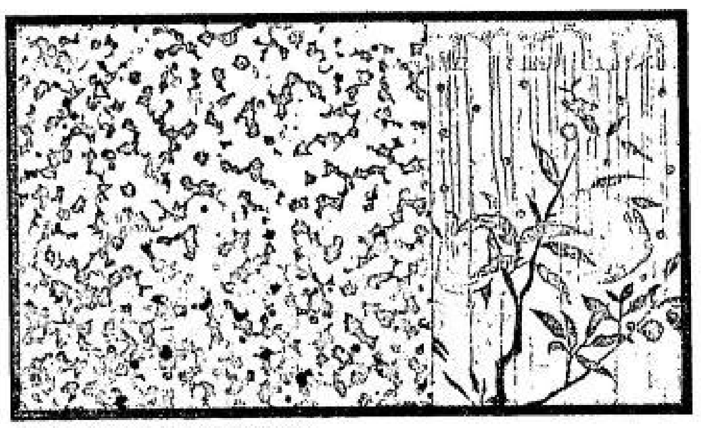
We cannot live for our purpose alone. We are always part of a bigger spectrum of lives and people that we need to reconnect with time and time again until a certain lesson is learned. Suffice to say that I would like to continue expanding my knowledge on what's next out there for me and it's truly eased a lot of the doubts in my life knowing that I will never be given a situation that I cannot handle.

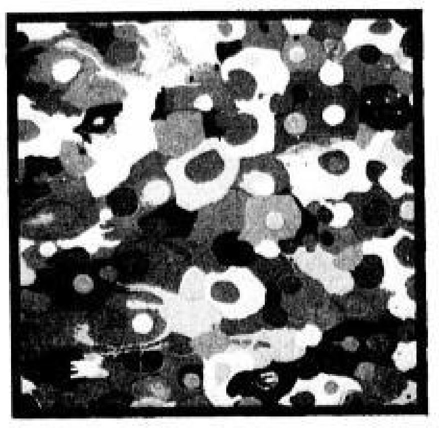
From what I understand, I "chose" to be here and to go through what I'm going through in order for me to learn from it, or to help lighten the load of someone, who is going through something similar and may not be (at this time) fully capable of dealing with the situation alone.

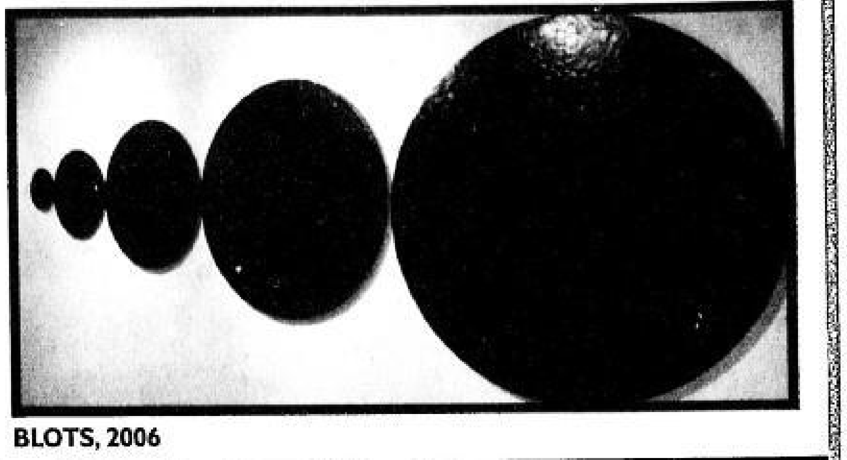
I may have not been able to explain (and have yet to grasp) the full meaning and reason for reincarnation, but if I've been able to shed some light on why you may have gotten that "old familiar feeling" (one too many times) then perhaps my soul train is ready for it's next stop.

For more information on Kabbalah in the Philippines go to www.kabbalah.com to check locations or e-mail kabbalahphilippines@yahoo.com or call (0922)768-1040. The book Journey of Souls is available online.


DISQUIET


LONG MISCELLANY, 2006


PIE IN THE SKY, 2007


BLOTS, 2006

A Beautiful Life: The Works of MM Yu

By Juana R. Manahan

THE GREATEST ESCAPE OF AN artist from the toils of everyday life is to see beauty in the unexpected. After Marcel Duchamp declared a urinal as a piece of art, creating art became pretty much a free for all. Writer Allan Kaprow wrote, "Non-art is whatever has not yet been accepted as art but has caught an artist's attention with that possibility in mind."

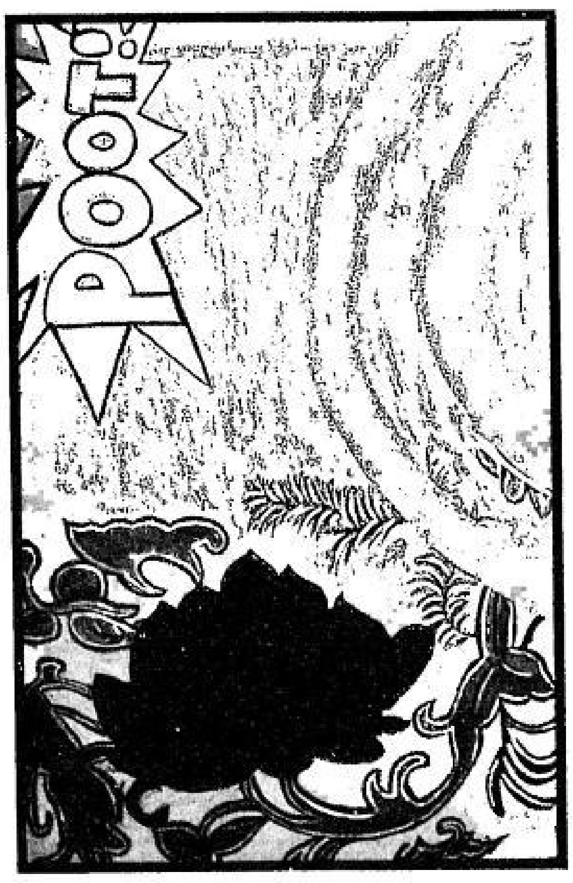
One such artist is MM Yu, who finds beauty in the chaotic surroundings of Manila. Her award winning multi-faceted "Thoughts Collected, Recollected," she photographs everyday scenes and objects such as signs, laundry, piles of objects that look to her like art installations and even anything with the letters MM on them. To the artistically unplugged mind, these scenes mean nothing, but through the eyes of MM, she shows us the artistic tendencies of scrap piles and overgrown weeds.

After winning the Ateneo Art awards in 2006 for her collection of pictures, MM has participated in five international exhibitions, numerous group shows and highly successful solo exhibits in the country's leading galleries. MM's art is a refreshing contrast to the splatters of grays and browns on canvases themed with misery and destruction. Her oil paintings look like piles of candy and licorice twists and at a glance, give one a happy thought.

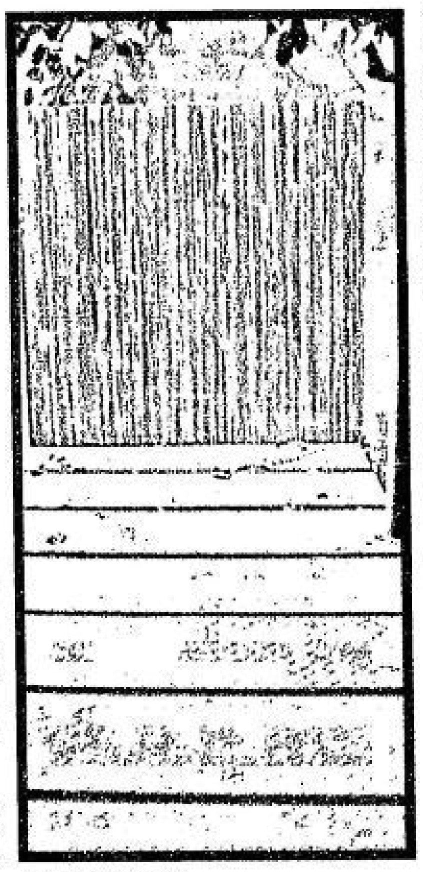
However, MM's work's in her series entitled "Disquiet" for example portray the contrast of still beauty such as flowers or peaches on a twig with the chaotic patterns of the pendant image next to it. Strangely enough when the peaceful image of the flowers were left without paint drippings in their original state, MM found that the paintings were not selling as fast. Once she decided to splatter paint all over the painting, people suddenly became more interested. Disquiet indeed.

Her collaboration with Polkong Anading on several collages, is one of the most ingenious works I have seen in a long time. The two artists cut out pieces from a survey art book to create a new collage of their own. This is the height of the pop art mentality—giving new meaning to "iconic" art. When the two finally finish up all the pictures in the book, they hope to send it back to the publisher, in the hopes that they will publish a book with all the cutouts.

MM's eye for pattern and repetition reflect the beauty in simplicity. Her technical skill alone of arranging colors in paint drippings takes time and coordination to get the perfect mix of colors blending in to one another. Her installation called "Blots" for example is simple and is pleasing to the eye. While many think that art is complicated and is always infused with meaning, it is refreshing to see an art such as MM's. Her art does not offend anyone with gore or political slogans or social commentary. In fact her creative process is one of the hardest things to do; to find beauty in everything. Through MM's work, the viewer's eyes are now open to that possibility.



SILENT WORDS


FACADE, 2003

MANICAS. Cleopatra Sophie Bischoff and Erin Peterson

PEEP OF THE WEEK
GIRL don't cry! Siblings Marion and Pilar Valdes

PEEPS

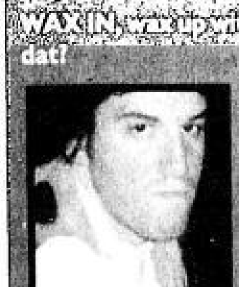
NYC Horror Picture Show

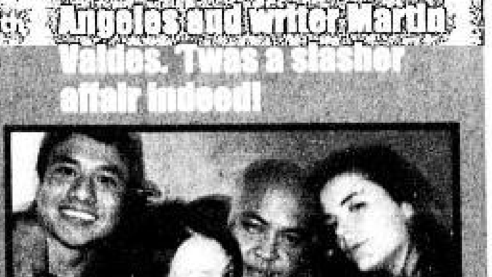
Crime Scene: *5 Ninth New York*
Ulterior Motive: *Halloween weekend*
Release Date: *Oct 27 2007*

For mysterious reasons, the stylish 5 Ninth in the Meat Packing District in New York City has become the center of gravity for Manila's twenty to thirtysomething transplants. Here are snapshots of last weekend's pre-Halloween revelry-slash-double birthday celebration of photographer Xander Angeles and writer Martin Valdes. 'Twas a slasher affair indeed!

GREASE BALLS. Dino de Borja and Trish Day

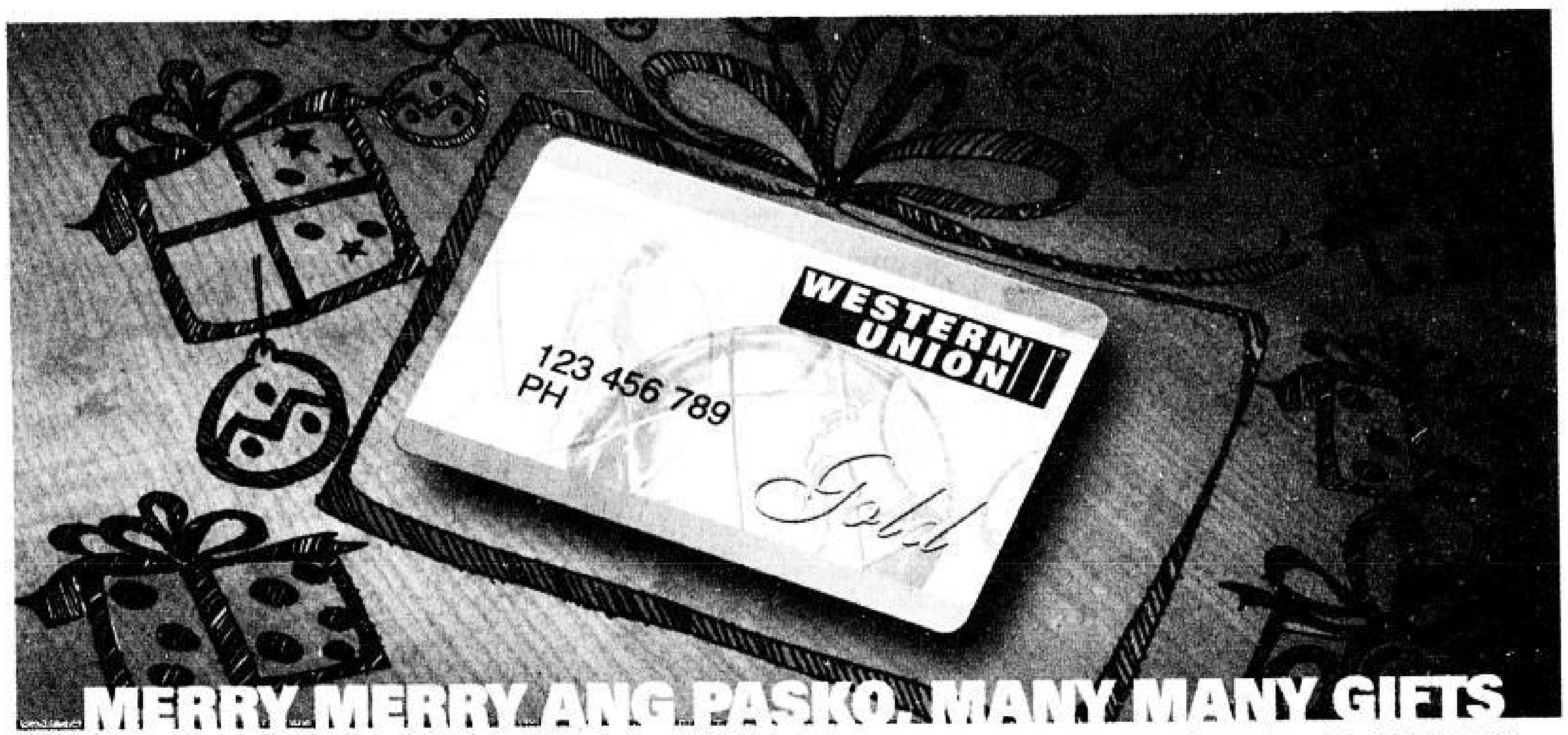
WAX IN, wax up with dat!


BONER ALERT, Frehd Flintstone


PUSSY WHIPPED. Jaime de los Angeles, Nicole Hernandez, Xander Angeles and Katherine

ANGEL (AND DEVIL) OF HARLEM, Emilio Anting, Martin Marty and Domeka Garramendi

SOONG-AY. Louele Spong



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The Mabuhay Manor Hotel	· 20% Discount on Hotel Accommodations on cash or credit card (based on published rates) · 20% Discount on Food and Beverage products at Sutukil and Lola's Restaurant. · 10% Discount on Banquet Packages · 20% Discount on use of Swimming Pool

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THE ROAD to eternal rest

LAST ride

MUSIC for mourning

The UNDERTAKER'S Chronicles

From page D1

was very conscious about her appearance and stayed away from cameras all her life.

Telenovela #1

There's nothing like a funeral to reveal deep, dark secrets. When attending a wake, I could tell a lot about the life of the person who passed away. One scene begins with the bereaved family dressed in black, sitting in front of the chapel. It seems like another sad story of a loving father who passed away. Then, as if by director's cue, another woman in black enters the scene. She is crying and cradling a baby in her arms. She rushes to the casket and starts wailing. The wife approaches the woman. A confrontation happens. The wife runs to her children, crying. It turns out the father had an illegitimate child from another woman.

The Story of Lazarus

When Papa was still a student, he came home from school, made himself a sandwich, and went to the funeral parlor below their house. A flock of bystanders were making a commotion in the morgue. When Papa asked what was going on, an employee told him that a body had just been delivered. The man was harvesting mongo in a barrio when he was struck by lightning. They brought the body immediately to Alvarez Funeral Home.

Suddenly, the man opened his eyes, jolted from the embalming table and blurted out that he wanted a glass of water. Papa dropped his sandwich and ran with the crown of horrified bystanders. It turned out the man wasn't dead after all.

The Playroom

There is a room in our house that I'm not fond of. My parents call it the playroom, because most of Papa's old toys and collection of miniature cars are in there. But we rarely stay in that room. My mother and sister get eerie feelings in that room, while I sense entities that come and go. I'm a non-practicing psychic. While I can't get rid of my gift, the best I can do is suppress it. But sometimes it catches me off guard.

I came home late from school one night and entered the front door, which is a few feet away from the playroom. Then the door of the playroom opened on its own, slowly but smoothly. It didn't open the whole way—just partially to communicate to me that an entity was watching my arrival. What's more unusual is that the playroom's door has been broken for months; it never opens smoothly.

FUNERALS and flowers

Telenovela #2

Use the same scene from telenovela #1 and add elements of casket crawlers (people who wail and crawl over the casket, as if trying to get in), overacting mourners and a third woman with another illegitimate child.

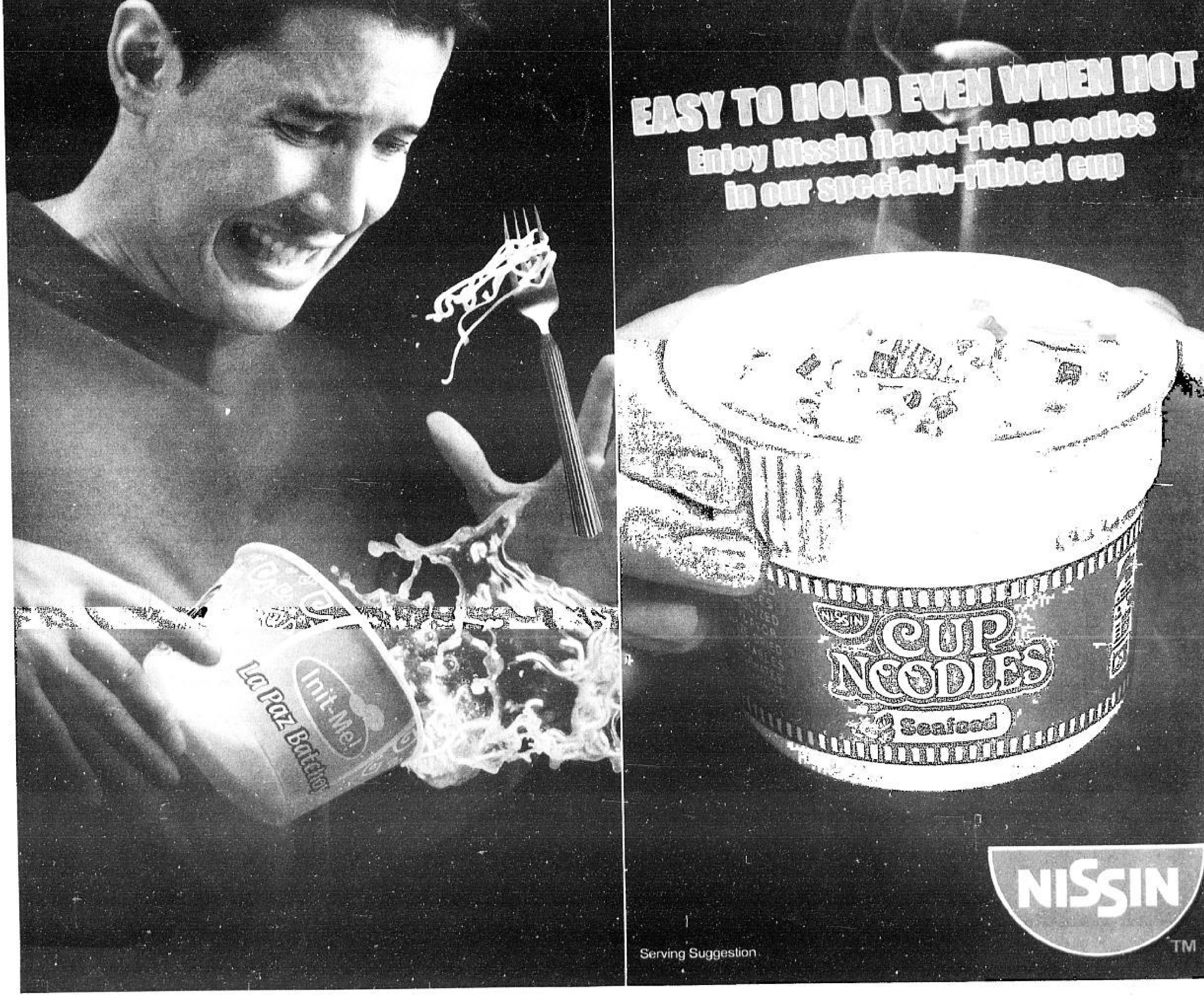
Undertakers Unite

There is an episode in Six Feet Under where the Fishers attended a funeral directors convention in Las Vegas. A hotel function room displayed the latest coffins, embalming materials, and brochures of funeral equipment and cemetery arrangements. The air was filled with banter from excited funeral directors. Speakers talked about the latest techniques in body restoration and issues in funeral directing. The guests bonded all night with wine and cocktails and headed out to party at the strip.

That episode is based on real events. The National Funeral Directors Association gathers in Vegas every year for a grand convention. As a member of the NFDA, my father is preparing to join next year's gathering. He is taking me with him. I can't wait.

For now, I'm looking forward to the local version—the annual Christmas party of the Philippine Mortuary Association. According to my mother, there is a sumptuous dinner, drinks, formal talks, and a raffle. Containers of formalin, embalming equipment, and funeral supplies are raffled off. The grand prize winner takes home one top-of-line imported coffin. I can imagine the looks on the faces of chichi hotel guests who see a coffin being carried out of the hotel and into a car in the parking lot.

This year, the PMA party will be held at a memorial park to accommodate the new tradition—members will arrive in hearses and black Cadillacs. For my first PMA party, I think I'll dress up as Wednesday Addams.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Enjoy Nissin flavor-rich noodles in our specially-ribbed cup
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Serving Suggestion
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IN THIS ISSUE

Britney recovers lost ground with 'Blackout' /F4

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Iron Man, Green Lantern gear up for the big screen

DOWNEY (inset) plays Marvel Comics' iron-clad superhero.

By Rito P. Asilo

WATCH OUT CLARK KENT, Bruce Wayne and Peter Parker, Tony Stark and Hal Jordan are gearing up for their moment of cinematic fame!

Indeed, if you grew up loving the high-flying, evil-crushing likes of Superman, Batman, Spider-Man and the angsty protégés of Professor Charles Xavier, you'll surely be familiar with Stark's alter ego, Iron Man, and Hal Jordan's ring-bearing Green Lantern.

For our part, we weren't just hooked on the aforementioned quintet, we also grew up loving the squeaky-clean veterans of the Justice League of America, the cantankerous X-Men, the impatient members of the Legion of Superheroes, and the Avengers.

We were content just reading about their crime-fighting exploits in their comic-book domicile, but seeing them take on bigger-than-life dimensions on the big and small screens thrilled the comic-book fan in us!

Accident

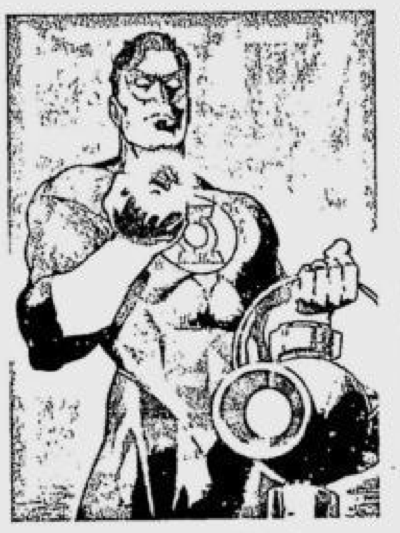
Next Year, Robert Downey Jr. will bring "Iron Man" to cinematic life, under Jon Favreau's direction. The movie will recount the story of a man who is forced to create a life-support suit for himself after a near-fatal accident. He then decides to use the technology of his suit to fight crime. It also stars Gwyneth Paltrow and Jeff Bridges.

One of our favorite superheroes, the Green Lantern, will also be brought to the silver screen by "Everwood" creator, Greg Berlante. The film will focus on how a dying alien gives his powerful ring to test pilot, Hal Jordan, after the alien being's spaceship crashes on earth.

Sensibility

If those foreign metahumans enthralled us as a child, even local superheroes less popular than the ubiquitous Darna captured our impressionable sensibility—we were convinced even "Darna Kuno" (starring a gender-bending Dolphy in the title-role), "Wonder Dabiana" (with Cecille Iñigo), the *Pinoy* "Supergirl" (featuring Pinky Montilla) and "Peter Pandesal" (topbilled by the precocious Niño Muhlach) could vanquish any evil force!

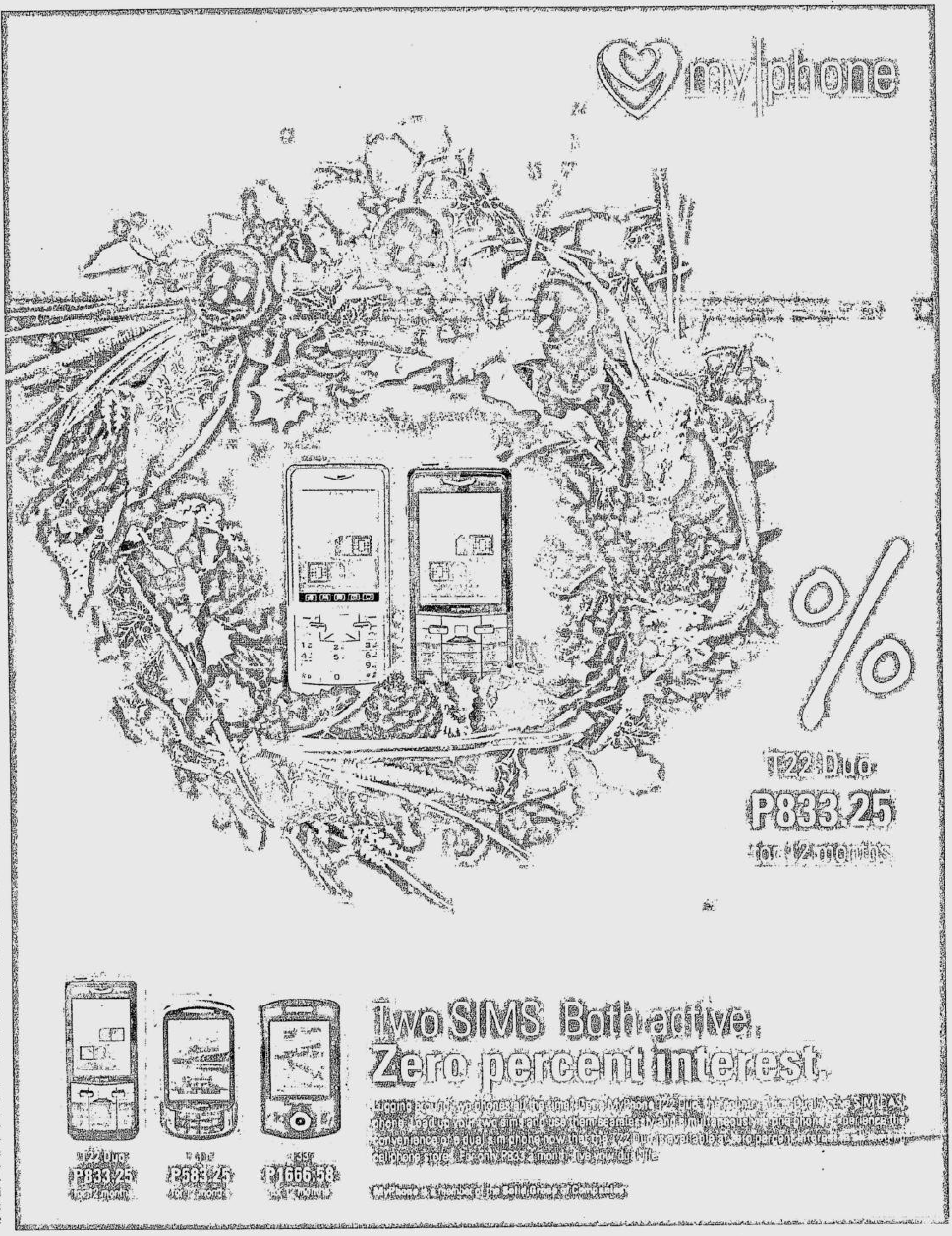
Hollywood, however, knew how to bring American comic-book superheroes to life—their investors made sure their superheroes' screen incarnations had sci-fi pomp and flair: Christopher Reeve donned the Man of Steel's cape four times between 1978 and 1987. Brandon Routh successfully revived the franchise last year in Bryan Singer's "Superman Returns."


GREEN LANTERN. His time to shine has come!

Franchise

The "Batman" series went through a case of musical charades—from Michael Keaton and Val Kilmer to George Clooney. Recently, the franchise has found new life in director Christopher Nolan's able hands, with Christian Bale reprising the coveted role in next year's "The Dark Knight."

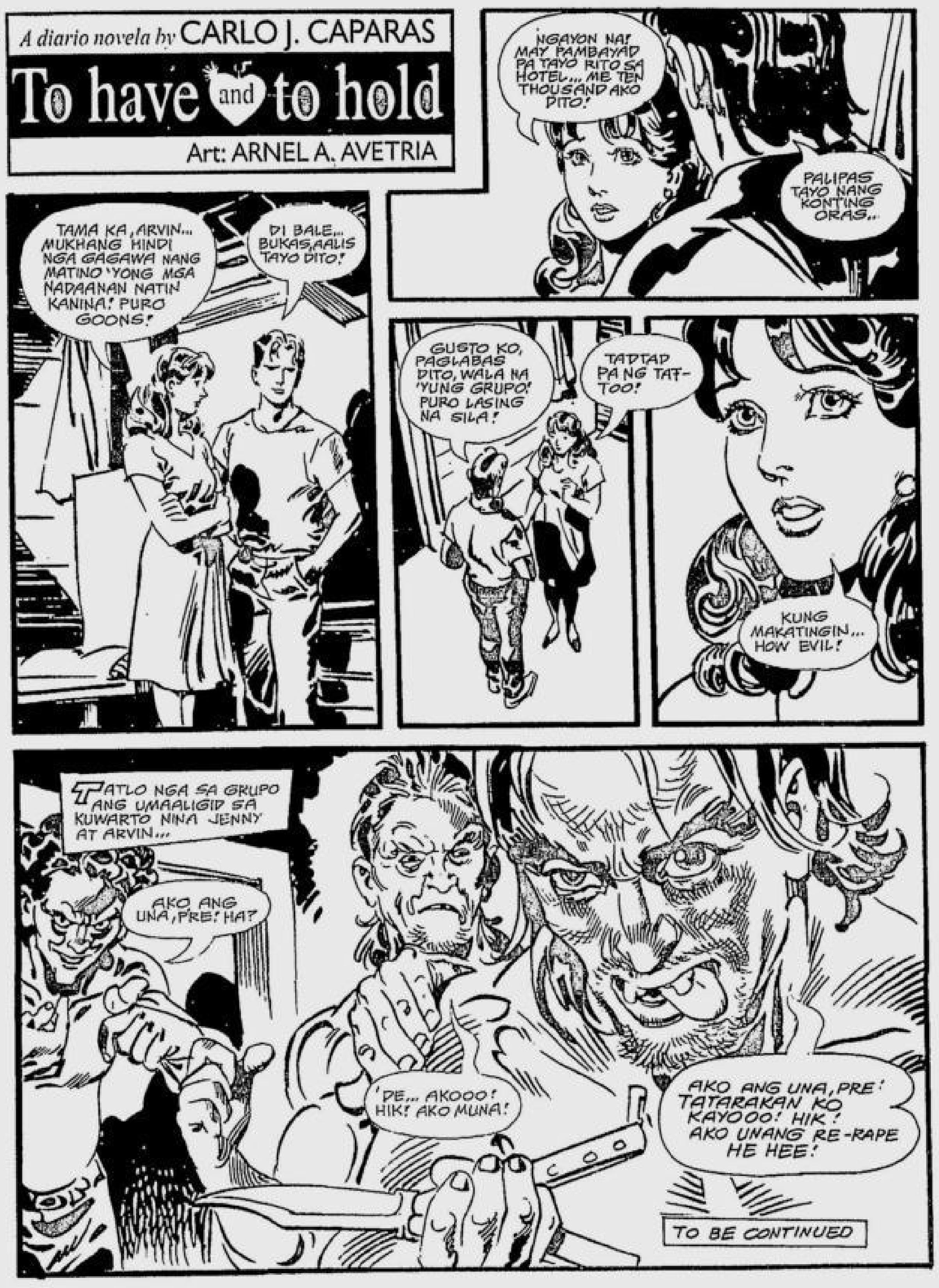
On Marvel Comics' side of the cinematic fence, Tobey Maguire played Spider-Man; Ben Affleck donned Daredevil's spandex; Hugh Jackman, Halle Berry and James Marsden breathed life into Wolverine, Storm and Cyclops in three "X-Men" installments; Dolph Lundgren (1989) and Thomas Jane (2004) alternately played "The Punisher"; Nicolas Cage portrayed the ominously eerie "The Ghost Rider," and Chris Evans and Jessica Alba led "The Fantastic Four" to the top of the box office!



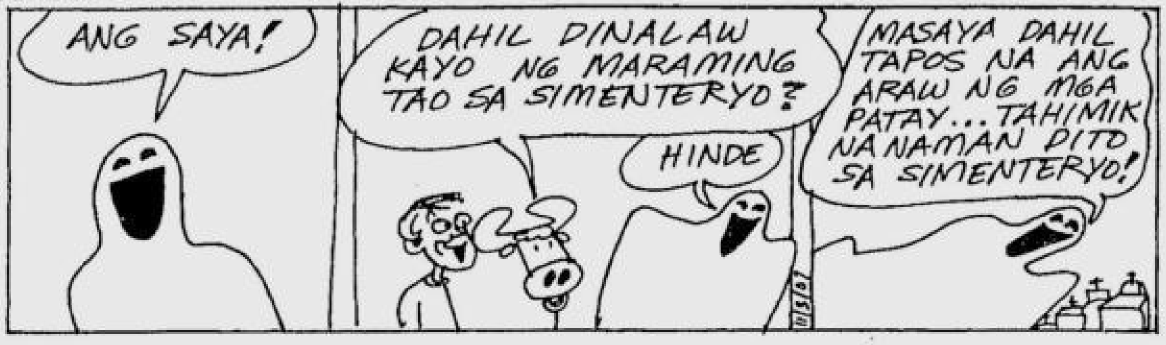
A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

To have and to hold

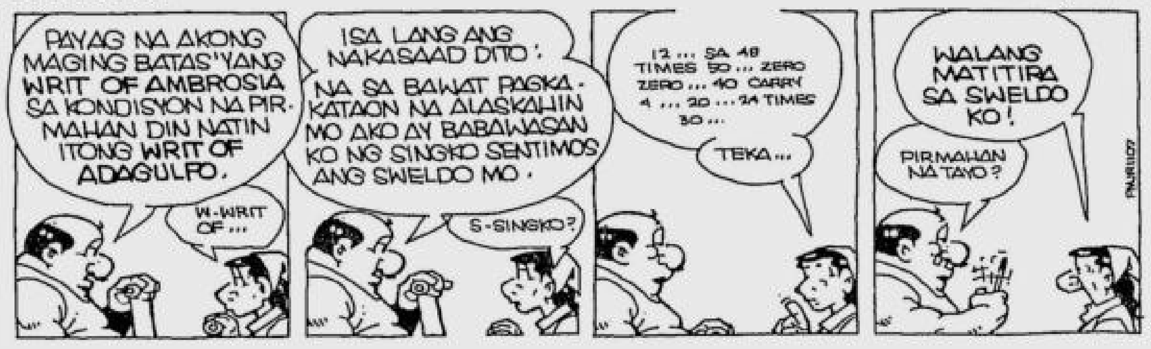
Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA


NGAYON NA! MAY PAMBAYAD PA TAYO RITO SA HOTEL... ME TEN THOUSAND AKO DITO!
PALIPAS TAYO NANG KONTING ORAS..
TAMA KA, ARVIN... MUKHANG HINDI NGA GAGAWA NANG MATINO 'YONG MGA NADAANAN NATIN KANINA! PURO GOONS!
DI BALE... BUKAS, AALIS TAYO DITO!
GUSTO KO, PAGLABAS DITO, WALA NA 'YUNG GRUPO! PURO LASING NA SILA!
TADTAD PA NG TAT-TOO!
KUNG MAKATINGIN... HOW EVIL!
TATLO NGA SA GRUPO ANG UMAALIGID SA KUWARTO NINA JENNY AT ARVIN...
AKO ANG UNA, PRE! HA?
'DE... AKOOO! HIK! AKO MUNA!
AKO ANG UNA, PRE! TATARAKAN KO KAYOOO! HIK! AKO UNANG RE-RAPE HE HEE!
TO BE CONTINUED

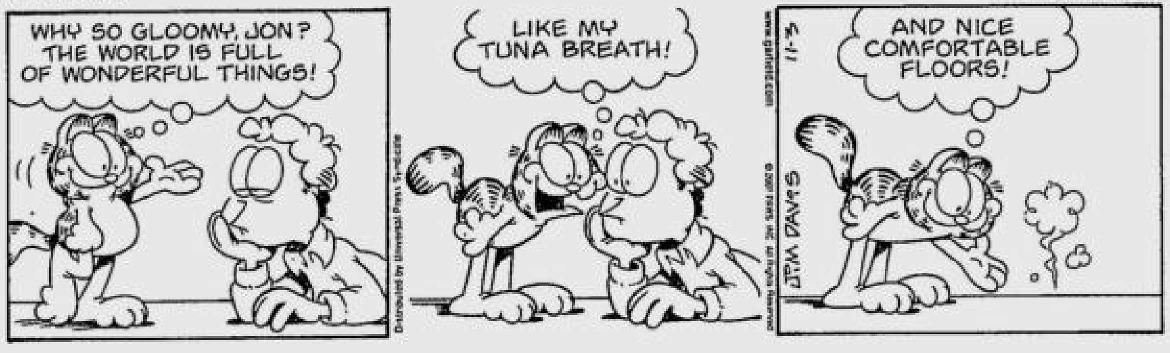
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


ANG SAYA!
DAHIL DINALAW KAYO NG MARAMING TAO SA SIMENTERYO?
HINDE
MASAYA DAHIL TAPOS NA ANG ARAW NG MGA PATAY... TAHIMIK NA NAMAN DITO SA SIMENTERYO!
11/3/07

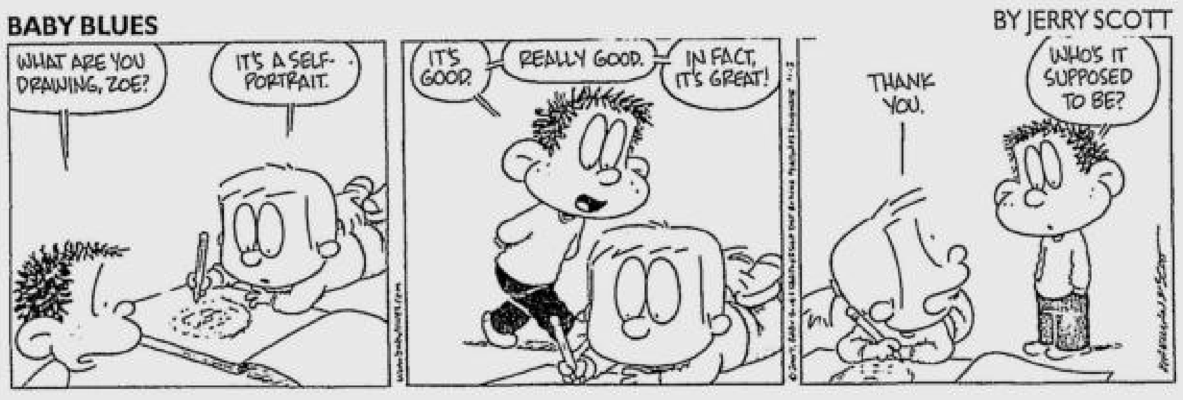
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


PAYAG NA AKONG MAGING BATAS 'YANG WRIT OF AMBROSIA SA KONDISYON NA PIRMAHAN DIN NATIN ITONG WRIT OF ADAGULFO.
W-WRIT OF...
ISA LANG ANG NAKASAAD DITO:
NA SA BAWAT PAGKAKATAON NA ALASKAHIN MO AKO AY BABAWASAN KO NG SINGKO SENTIMOS ANG SWELDO MO.
S-SINGKO?
12... SA 48 TIMES 50... ZERO ZERO... 40 CARRY 4... 20... 24 TIMES 30...
TEKA...
WALANG MATITIRA SA SWELDO KO!
PIRMAHAN NA TAYO?

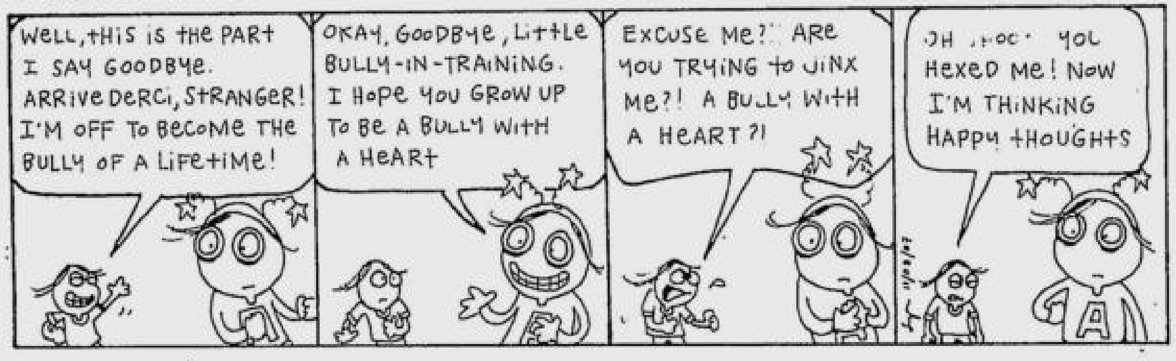
GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS


WHY SO GLOOMY, JON? THE WORLD IS FULL OF WONDERFUL THINGS!
LIKE MY TUNA BREATH!
AND NICE COMFORTABLE FLOORS!
JIM DAVIS
11-3

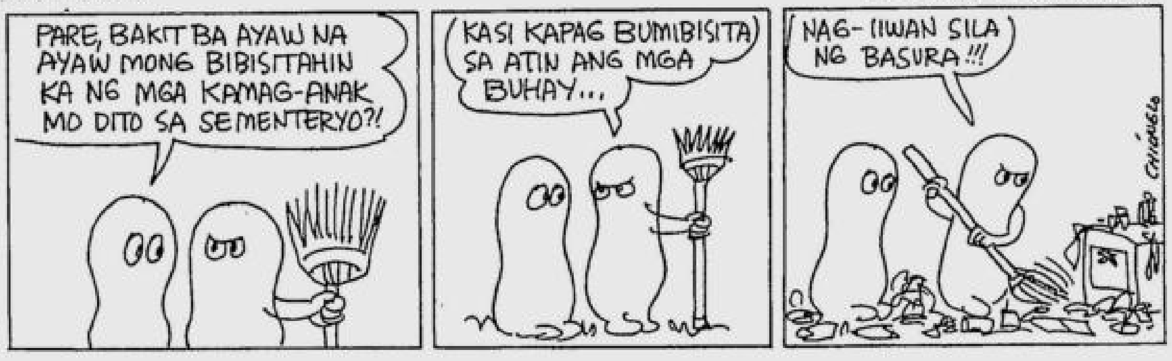
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT ARE YOU DRAWING, ZOE?
IT'S A SELF-PORTRAIT.
IT'S GOOD.
REALLY GOOD.
IN FACT, IT'S GREAT!
THANK YOU.
WHO'S IT SUPPOSED TO BE?

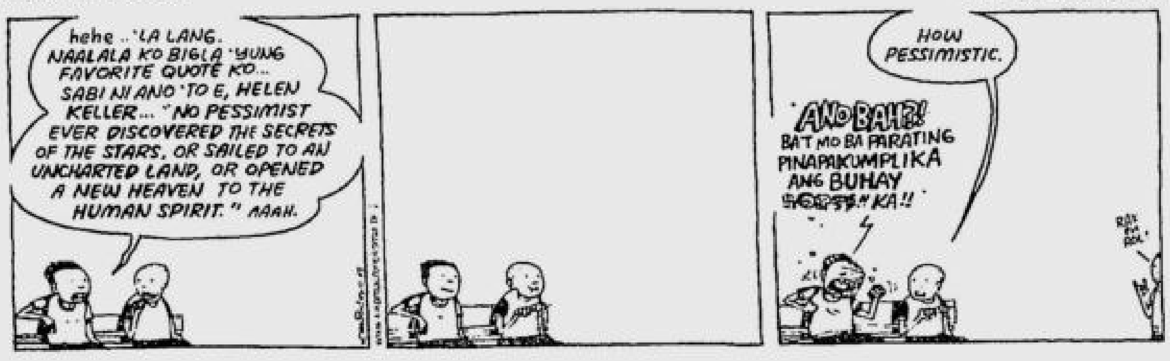
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WELL, THIS IS THE PART I SAY GOODBYE. ARRIVEDERCI, STRANGER! I'M OFF TO BECOME THE BULLY OF A LIFETIME!
OKAY, GOODBYE, LITTLE BULLY-IN-TRAINING. I HOPE YOU GROW UP TO BE A BULLY WITH A HEART
EXCUSE ME?! ARE YOU TRYING TO JINX ME?! A BULLY WITH A HEART?!
OH ... YOU HEXED ME! NOW I'M THINKING HAPPY THOUGHTS

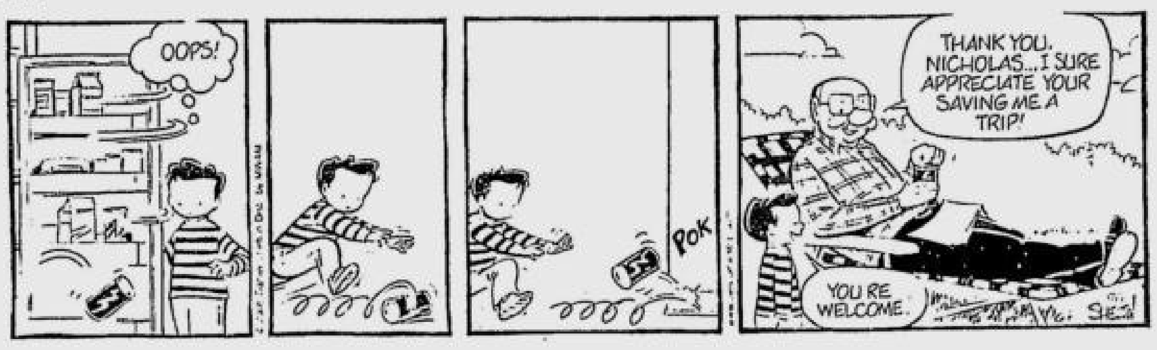
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PARE, BAKIT BA AYAW NA AYAW MONG BIBISITAHIN KA NG MGA KAMAG-ANAK MO DITO SA SEMENTERYO?!
KASI KAPAG BUMIBISITA SA ATIN ANG MGA BUHAY...
NAG-IIWAN SILA NG BASURA!!!
CHIONGLO

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


hehe... 'LA LANG. NAALALA KO BIGLA 'YUNG FAVORITE QUOTE KO... SABI NI ANO 'TO E, HELEN KELLER... "NO PESSIMIST EVER DISCOVERED THE SECRETS OF THE STARS, OR SAILED TO AN UNCHARTED LAND, OR OPENED A NEW HEAVEN TO THE HUMAN SPIRIT." AAAH.
HOW PESSIMISTIC.
ANO BAH?! BA'T MO BA PARATING PINAPAKUMPLIKA ANG BUHAY KA!!

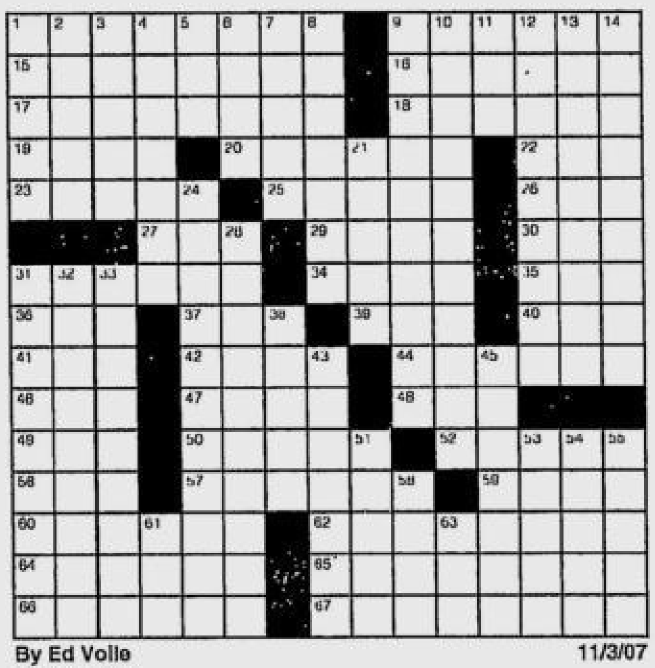
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


OOPS!
POK
THANK YOU, NICHOLAS... I SURE APPRECIATE YOUR SAVING ME A TRIP!
YOU'RE WELCOME.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Mali destination
9 Danzig
15 Operation of planes
16 Abrogate
17 Irish lasses
18 Cleopatra's Mark
19 Spoken
20 Repetitive recital
22 Mormon abbr.
23 Church council
25 System of beliefs
26 Morsel of food
27 Dinghy blade
29 Conflict in Greek drama
30 Needle-nosed fish
31 Actress Plummer
34 Water conduit
35 Altar words
36 Pea case
37 Harem area
39 His, in Hyeres
40 Bard's twilight
41 Actress Claire
42 Treats a squeak
44 Pee Wee and Della
46 Rhine tributary
47 Coll. mil. org.
48 Stein filler
49 B&O and Union Pacific
50 Body of water
52 Savage and Friendly
56 "__ bin ein Berliner:" JFK
57 Constricted
59 Ends of small intestines
60 Sheep farmer's tools
62 Fuse together
64 Very third-rate
65 Imagine
66 Grafting shoots
67 Goes in again

DOWN
1 Tex-Mex snacks
2 Soap brand
3 La Scala location
4 Party popper
5 Shoshone
6 Bay of the Baltic Sea
7 Quinine water
8 Remove a seatbelt
9 Big melodrama set to music
10 Abstain from
11 Suited for
12 Freshly coined words
13 "Gidget" star
14 Some electron tubes
21 Sponsorship
24 The Crystals 1963 hit
28 Wireless airings
31 Beekeepers
32 Of hereditary rule
33 Hebrew year's extra month
38 Let out or take in
43 Fewer and farther between
45 Superlatively uncanny
51 Not even a mouse
53 Beast of Borden
54 Interior look
55 "Danse Macabre" composer Saint-__
58 Employ a hand signal
61 GI mail drop
63 Vietnam Memorial artist



By Ed Voile
Gillette, WY

11/3/07

Friday's Puzzle Solved

M	I	D	S	T	S	■	P	L	A	T	Y	P	U	S
I	S	A	I	A	H	■	R	E	C	R	E	A	T	E
S	L	I	P	P	E	R	Y	W	H	E	N	M	E	T
T	E	S	S	E	R	A	■	D	E	N	T	■	■	■
S	T	Y	■	■	P	E	A	■	■	D	A	U	B	S
■	■	■	F	D	A	■	I	D	A	■	■	B	R	A
L	U	N	A	R	■	F	R	I	D	G	E	O	U	T
I	N	I	T	I	A	L	■	A	D	U	L	A	T	E
S	T	E	E	P	B	I	L	L	■	R	A	T	E	S
T	I	C	■	■	A	T	E	■	P	U	L	■	■	■
S	E	E	P	S	■	■	T	A	I	■	■	W	P	A
■	■	■	E	N	G	R	■	F	R	E	S	H	E	N
C	U	S	T	O	M	E	R	B	A	R	K	I	N	G
A	S	P	I	R	A	T	E	■	C	O	E	R	C	E
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11/3/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're a wise, shrewd observer of the human condition. You don't back down once you set your goals. You work best independently, being your own boss. Because you work hard, you're successful at whatever you attempt. Something you've been involved with for the past nine years might end in the next year in order to make room for something new to enter.

Birthdate of: Roseanne Barr, actress/comedian; Kate Capshaw, actress; Blair Chenoweth, Miss USA 2007.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Be open to ideas about how to improve your health. Any effort you make to improve your diet or exercise regimen will pay off

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): If you indulge in a little creative thinking today, you'll see new applications for old things. ("Oh look! I can make a floor lamp out of this old Volkswagen.")

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is an excellent day to make improvements in bathrooms, laundry areas or anything having to do with plumbing, garbage or dark spaces. You're in the mood to clean up!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Discussions with siblings will be revealing today. You're willing to face the truth about something, and so are others. Prepare yourself for what comes next

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Give some serious thought to new sources of income for yourself. It's possible to dream up something that just might fly. You might see new financial applications for things.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Your sign represents wellness. It rules the intestines. Today you can discover new ways to improve your body and your health in general.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Research into anything will be profitable for you today. Secrets just pop up out of nowhere. In large measure, this is because you have the mind of a detective.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Conversations with friends and groups are not casual today. People feel strongly about whatever is discussed. This means you have to show respect and listen carefully

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Authority figures are going to lay down the law today. Knowing this ahead of time, you can show some deference by listening to them. (Sometimes the appearance of things is enough.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You might change your mind about some kind of belief system or travel plans, or something related to foreign countries and different cultures. You see an entirely new point of view today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): If you're involved with others about shared property or something that is jointly held, you might have new ideas about how things should be done. Don't be afraid to speak up.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Your desire to improve an existing relationship is strong today. Your ideas are good. Talk to partners and friends about what is possible.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis SudoKu By Dave Green

			3				6	
7								8
	2		8	5	7		1	
				9		4		2
5		9		8				
	4		6	2	1		3	
2								6
	9				4			

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 11/03

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

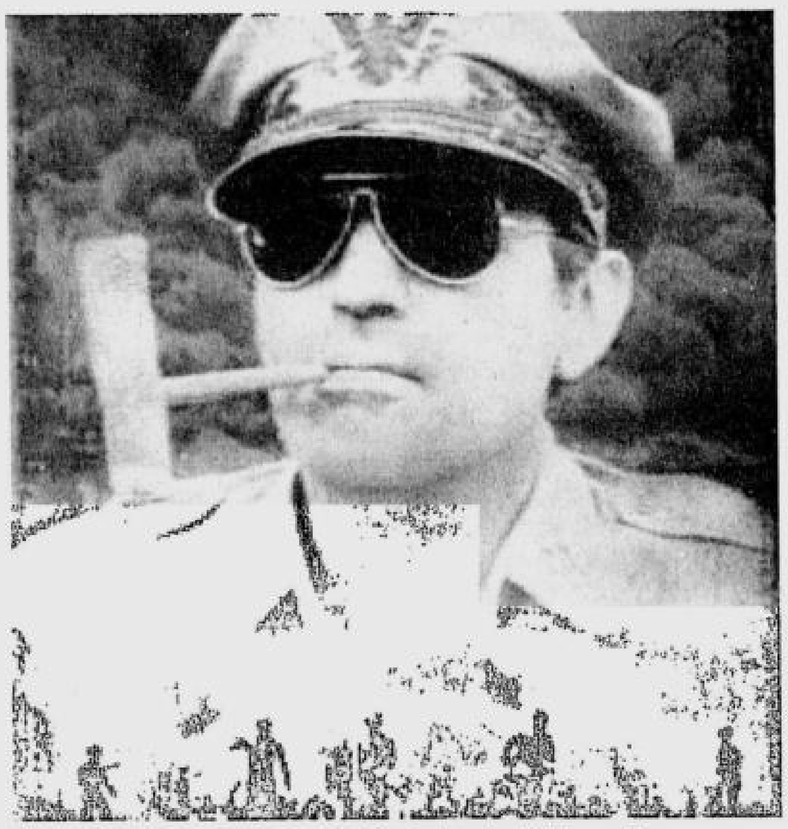
Answer to previous puzzle

5	2	4	3	1	9	8	6	7
3	7	8	2	4	6	1	9	5
6	9	1	5	8	7	3	4	2
1	4	7	9	6	3	5	2	8
2	8	6	4	5	1	9	7	3
9	5	3	7	2	8	4	1	6
8	6	9	1	3	2	7	5	4
4	1	2	8	7	5	6	3	9
7	3	5	6	9	4	2	8	1

Difficulty Level ★★★★

Hollywood perpetuates unfair treatment of Filipino war heroes

By Edmund L. Sicam



PECK. Played General Douglas MacArthur in 1977 war film.

IF YOU BELIEVE MANY US films' version of the Second World War, the Americans single-handedly liberated the Philippines from the Japanese, while Filipinos merely stood in the sidelines to welcome the US forces with open arms.

In "MacArthur" (1977), Gregory Peck (as General Douglas MacArthur) utters these dramatic lines after landing in Leyte: "By the grace of Almighty God, our forces stand again on Philippine soil—soil consecrated in the blood of our two peoples. We have come, dedicated and committed, to the task of destroying every vestige of enemy control over your daily lives, and of restoring, upon a foundation of indestructible strength, the liberties of your people."

Valuable intelligence

There's hardly any mention of how the Filipino soldiers provided valuable intelligence, so that MacArthur could utter those famous lines. According to historian August de Viana, the Americans had originally planned to land in Mindanao, where they would have been routed by the superior Japanese forces. Instead, Pinoy guerrillas, led by Lt. Col. Ruperto Kangleon, sent word to the Yanks that Leyte was a more suitable place, because it was poorly defended.

Thus on Oct. 20, 1944, MacArthur led an invasion force of more than 200,000 troops that landed on the beaches of Leyte. Aided by several thousand guerrillas, the contingent scored a decisive victory by the end of the year that led to the ultimate liberation of the country.

Unfortunately, the youth of today know very little about those historic events. It helps when movies about the war are shown on the big screen, but even then, the heroism of the Filipino is hardly recognized.

Recently, for instance, Cesar Montano starred in a major Hollywood movie about how 500 American prisoners of war were rescued from a concentration camp in Cabanatuan. Montano portrayed guerrilla leader, Juan Pajota, who played a major role in the operation.

Minimal screen time

I was quite disappointed in the movie, as Montano and the other Filipino actors received minimal screen time, while the Americans, led by James Franco—Spider-Man's nemesis—dominated the scenes. It seems that is how Hollywood looks at the role that Pinoys played in the war.

To correct this wrong impression, the Philippine Veterans Bank, which is wholly owned by veterans, has come up with a traveling exhibit, "The War of Our Fathers... A Tribute to the Filipino Freedom Fighter," which contains vintage photos, maps, artifacts and videos that focus on the heroism displayed by Filipinos—teachers, workers, farmers, housewives and ordinary individuals—who displayed extraordinary courage in defending the country against foreign invaders.

The exhibit has already reached many sites: SM Dasmarinas, Cavite, in time for the 62nd anniversary of the liberation of Tagaytay; San Fernando, La Union, to commemorate the Battle for Bacsil Ridge; the FEU campus; SM Mall of Asia; Ateneo de Zamboanga University; SM City Bacolod, and Silliman University in Dumaguete.

Leyte landing

Two weeks ago, I was invited to the opening of the exhibit in Leyte, in time for the 63rd anniversary of the Leyte landing. With me on the flight to Tacloban were the Presidential Assistant on Veteran Affairs, Jesus Terry F. Adevoso, Veterans Bank vice president for Corporate Communications, Mike Villareal, and the National Historical Institute's De Viana.

When we landed at the airport, I was elated to find a group of students with welcome streamers—only to discover that they were meant for Sam Milby, who was on the same flight! It seems he was there to judge a beauty contest.

Later, however, I was gratified at the good attendance at the lecture of Dr. De Viana.

Before his lecture, De Viana shared some trivia about the historic landing: He said that General MacArthur restaged the landing a few days after he arrived—for the benefit of photographers who accompanied him.

Documents

He then explained how the guerrillas were able to get information on the strength of the Japanese forces in the island through documents they found in a plane that crashed in Leyte. This valuable information enabled the Americans to change their plan to land in Mindanao.

In the evening, we went to the provincial capitol, where the exhibit had been set up. The formal launch was attended by veterans and their relatives, who perked up when Asst. Sec. Adevoso informed them that a bill granting additional benefits to veterans would soon be voted on by the entire US Congress, and it had a good chance of passing.

I agree that the traveling exhibit is a great idea in promoting awareness of Filipino heroism during the war. But, what would really create a tremendous impact is if the Veterans Bank considers producing a war movie which will feature *Pinoy* stars like Cesar Montano and Christopher de Leon—instead of Gregory Peck and James Franco!

STEWART. Strength of character.

COOPER. Top box-office draw.

Muted sophistication characterized Cooper and Stewart's iconic appeal

By Behn Cervantes

GARY COOPER IS certainly one of Hollywood's greatest icons. If he was popular with producers because of his box-office draw, the 6'4" tall actor was just as irresistible to his leading ladies. Ingrid Bergman and Patrice Neal, both statuesque Oscar-winning actresses, were among his many romantic flings.

Adonis

Starting his career during the silent-film era, Cooper's blond Adonis looks made him a natural hero in Westerns. After proving his acting mettle in the then popular genre, he won his first Academy Award portraying a true-to-life war hero in "Sergeant York." Earlier, he starred in the first cinematic adaptation of Ernest Hemingway's "A Farewell to Arms" opposite Helen Hayes. Years later, he starred in another Hemingway classic, "For Whom the Bell Tolls," opposite Ingrid Bergman.

Cooper was a "quiet" actor to whom the acting adage, "Less is more," certainly applied. Even three-time Academy awardee, Ingrid Bergman was in awe of his simple approach to acting.

She once told an interviewer that sometimes, she felt Cooper didn't deliver during the filming of a scene, but when she saw that same scene magnified on the big screen, she was duly impressed. Hardly discernible nuances during the take were clearly apparent and apt on the big screen.

Unique appeal

Ernst Lubitsch cast him in the sophisticated comedy, "Design for Living," while Frank Capra exploited his unique appeal in "Meet Joe Doe" and "Mr. Deeds Goes to Town." In "Fountainhead," he portrayed an unconventional architect patterned after Frank Lloyd Wright.

Cooper won his second Academy Award for his performance in the classic Western, "High Noon."

Theater

Another actor with muted sophistication was James Stewart, the legendary actor with "Aw, shucks" appeal. Stewart had ample experience in the theater before Hollywood cast him in comedies, musicals and dramas.

For four decades, he was loved by audiences for portraying average American characters with human foibles, as well as strength of character and moral perseverance. Thus, Capra cast him in "You Can't Take It With You" and his personal favorite, "It's A Wonderful Life," which, although it was not a box-office hit in its time, has remained a Christmas staple on television to this day.

It was in "The Philadelphia Story" that Stewart won his Academy Award, although he shared stellar billing with Katherine Hepburn and Cary Grant.

Loner

Anthony Mann often cast him in Westerns as a loner with a tormented ("Winchester 75," "Bend of the River" and "The Man from Laramie"). Other noted directors sought his services: Alfred Hitchcock got him to star in "Rear Window" and "The Man Who Knew Too Much," while Cecil B. de Mille cast him as a fugitive clown in "The Greatest Show on Earth." Billy Wilder cast him as Peter Lindbergh in "The Spirit of St. Louis" and as Glenn Miller in a bio flick about the great American musician.

In reality, the shy actor served in the US Air Force with distinction during the Pacific War. Upon retirement, Stewart was promoted from colonel to general. —Talk about authentic Hollywood heroes!

A family that thrives in God's love

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

LOVE IS MORE IMportant than any material thing. It's what keeps the Pastores family together.

Here's a story straight from the heart of cardiologist, Dr. Liza Guzman-Pastores, who met her husband, surgeon Dr. John Vincent Pastores, when she was a medical intern and John was a resident physician at Makati Medical Center.

Liza believes, "It's possible to find heaven on earth. It starts with a beautiful marriage. We have learned to put God in the center of our lives and our family!"

Environment

The Pastores family believes that a strong and stable marriage will produce an environment where children find security in the love of their parents. Despite John and Liza's busy schedule, they set aside special bonding moments to teach Christian values like humility and gratitude to their kids.

Their children—Stella Angela, Karla Angelica, Laura and Angelina—excel in school because the couple nurtures their kids' God-given gifts by showering them with love and encouragement.

It's not enough to teach, parents also need to practice what they preach. Children may forget what you teach them, but they will remember how you deal with people—and how you take care of your relationship with God. The Pastores children have been brought up with feet firmly planted on solid Christian ground.

LIZA and John Vincent Pastores (center) with their lively daughters (from left), Stella Angela, Karla Angelica, Laura and Angelina

* * *

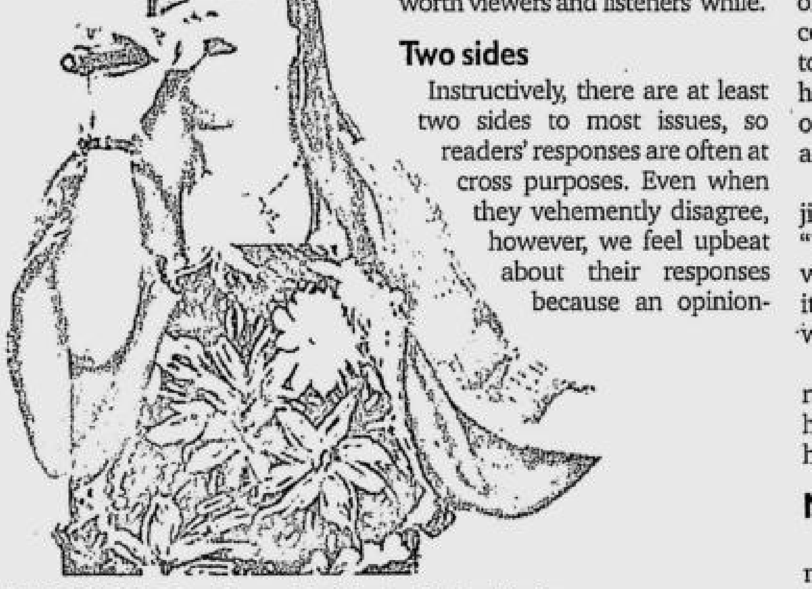
Join our Batanes Photo Safari on Dec. 27-30 or Jan. 3-6, 2008. E-mail mandynavasero@yahoo.com, or visit www.mandynavasero.com. Call 899-17677 or text 0905 251-1623.

Readers and viewers weigh in on industry issues

By Nestor U. Torre

WE'RE GRATIFIED TO SEE THAT readers and viewers are expressing their opinions on arts and entertainment issues more readily and forthrightly these days.

That really is the way to go, because an articulate and involved audience is urgently needed to keep performers and producers on their toes and prompt them to come up with shows that are worth viewers and listeners' while.



MARCELO. Defies the mold of the typical celebrity.

Two sides

Instructively, there are at least two sides to most issues, so readers' responses are often at cross purposes. Even when they vehemently disagree, however, we feel upbeat about their responses because an opinionated audience is the industry's best insurance against shoddy, irresponsible work—and boredom.

Recently, we wrote about KC Concepcion's Paris special, and got a number of conflicting reactions. Wena Onabia of Quezon City agreed that the special went on too long, but found KC "sincere and articulate." She went on to wish, "Now that she's home, hopefully for good, KC should act on TV and in the movies and do an album to show her versatility."

On the other hand, Ditas Hojilla of San Juan City dissented; "Unlike you, I found KC's special very short. I would have wanted it to go on and on! Hope to watch her in coming projects.

"Sharon, take a bow, girl. You've raised your daughter well—she has a good heart as well as a good head. You must be very proud."

Negative effects

Meanwhile, our piece on the negative effects of text-voting prompted Lyn Marti to share, "I was reading your article on reality shows and I remembered what you said when my 16-year-old niece cried over a finalist in a TV talent search who was recently booted out. My niece texted like P100 per show for her favorite bet, but he was voted out, even when he wasn't in the 'bottom three' of the show.

"Contest rules said that finalists were to be judged according to judges' say and online votes and texting. So, what happened to the rules? Who changed them? So, I agree with you: Let's do away with text-voting, if the intent is to pick the real talents."

Producers

On the *other* hand, Erlinda Bautista of Manila found many inaccuracies in our article. She pointed out that we "failed to mention that producers, industry execs and judges all have a hand in choosing contestants even *before* the actual competition. So, everyone who reaches the text voting phase after the auditions and screening deserves to be there.

CONCEPCION. Should record an album to show her versatility.

"Besides, what is so wrong about asking for support from relatives, friends, neighbors, colleagues at the office, classmates, province mates, etc.? Isn't that the *Bayanihan* spirit?

"You urge talent search shows to 'choose really perceptive judges and give them the power to choose the best new talents.' But, talent search judges like Ryan Cayabyab, Pilita Corrales, Eugene Villaluz and Wally Gonzales *are* competent. If they aren't perceptive enough, then I don't know who is.

"On the observation that some talent search winners don't become successful stars, who in his right mind can guarantee the success of anybody's show biz career? Fame and popularity are transient by nature. Text votes are just a means to transfer messages/votes in the quickest way possible from a mass audience.

Pure heart

"And on the comment that 'text-voting doesn't boost the great unknown talents who deserve to become stars,' no one can disprove this statement more than the Philippine Idol herself, Mau Marcelo, who never fit the mold of the typical celebrity but possesses an incredible singing voice and a pure heart."

Keep those concurring *and* dissenting opinions coming, folks!

Washington, Crowe worked as team on 'American Gangster'

NEW YORK—THERE WAS NO power struggle between Denzel Washington and Russell Crowe on the set of their new crime drama, "American Gangster." Instead, they worked as a team when filming their scenes together.

"It's not about a heavyweight fight," Crowe said in an interview with AP Television News. "It's much more like two guitarists playing together, or two people singing together."

"American Gangster" is based on the life of Frank Lucas, played by Washington, who became filthy rich in the 1960s by smuggling heroin into New York.

Crowe portrays a police officer who investigates Lucas and his dirty dealings. "If you can blend, if you can harmonize and you can sing together still from two completely separate points of view, now you are talking," said Crowe, 43, who won an Academy Award in 2001 for "Gladiator." He also received Oscar nominations for his roles in "The Insider" and "A Beautiful Mind."

Less pressure

Washington said he felt less pressure to perfect his role in "American Gangster" than he did for 1992's "Malcolm X" because the real-life Lucas put him at ease.

"In 'Malcolm X,' we were under a lot of pressure," he said. "There were a lot of folks showing up, like, 'You better get this right or it could cost you.' One might have expected it to be the case in this film. That wasn't the case with Frank. He was real cool."

Washington won Academy Awards for "Glory" and "Training Day," and received Oscar nominations for "Malcolm X," "The Hurricane" and "Cry Freedom."

Oscar buzz

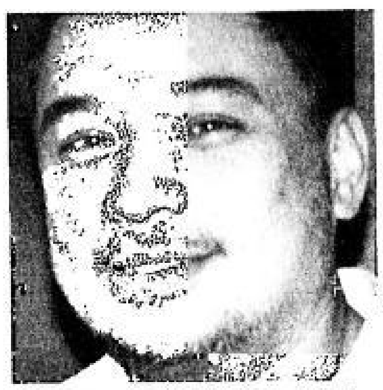
The 52-year-old actor said he's trying to ignore the early Oscar buzz surrounding "American Gangster," directed by Ridley Scott, which has been getting positive reviews from critics.

"We don't even hear about it until you sit down and do interviews," he said. "First of all, the film hasn't even come out yet. Let the film come out and let the public decide how they feel about it." *AP*

WASHINGTON (top) and Crowe play heroin smuggler and police officer, respectively. REUTERS

Ricky Davao finds greater fulfillment in performing onstage

By Rica Arevalo



DAVAO. Found his true calling in the theater.

THE FIRST TIME I WORKED with Ricky Davao was for an environmental film years ago. For more than a month, we stayed in Palawan and were cut off from the rest of the world. There, I saw his dedication to his work and his good working relationship with the production team.

Recently, we ran into the versatile actor when he read excerpts from "An Imaginary Life," a screenplay written by visiting Australian writer, John Alsop, at the De La Salle University.

What's keeping him busy these days? "In Mario O'Hara's stage version of Lino Brocka's 'Insiang' (which runs from Nov. 16 to Dec. 9 at the CCP), I portray the character originated by Ruel Vernal. I acted in the play five years ago, but it excites me to still discover new things about the character!"

Projects

In the '80s, Davao "discovered" the artistic fulfillment that can be had on the legitimate stage when he found himself wanting in film assignments, after a number of his movie projects didn't do well at the box office.

He recalls: "*Habang wala akong ginagawa*, Nonon Padilla asked me to do a play—an experience that made me realize my true calling! Theater, after all, is an actor's medium. *Pagbukas ng kurtina at ilaw*—that's the point of no return for the actor. On TV or in films, *pwede kang 'pagwapuhin'* or *'papangitin'* through editing!"

On the big screen, he delivered exceptional performances in "Ang Lalake sa Buhay ni Selya" and "Saranggola." He shares: "I don't really 'package' myself. *Kung anong* offer *ang dumating*, that's when I weigh the merits and flaws of the material."

Was there ever a time he regretted pursuing a career in acting? "I don't know if it was wise for me to have refused to become part of a love team. *Baka hindi ako naging* superstar *dahil dun*," he chuckles.

When Ricky was younger (and some 35 pounds lighter), producers would "ask" him to court this or that actress to create a buzz, but he refused.

Roles

He recalls: "*Maraming nagtampo sa akin*. I lost many roles! In this profession, *mas maraming* low points than high moments, but the fulfillment you derive from the latter is enough to sustain you. *Minsan, ang tagal na wala kang ginagawa!* I'm happy doing stage plays."

Ricky is gearing up for his next feature-length directorial assignment, "Hiblang Abo," which is based on a script written by Rene Villanueva. "The movie tackles old age, but the treatment is light. If I can get Eddie Garcia, Dolphy, and my father, Charlie Davao, to play the story's pivotal lead roles, that would be great!"

Sports comedy runs out of steam

By Noelani Torre

WALKEN. Plays former Ping-Pong champion in purple silk robes.

WATCHING THE MOVIE, "BALLS of Fury," is like watching a Ping-Pong match that's going on longer than it should: The ball flies furiously fast at first, but as minutes trickle past, the serves get slower, the speed decelerates, the players get drenched in sweat—and they still keep playing.

Meanwhile, the viewers who were rapt in the beginning finds themselves thinking that maybe, they shouldn't have postponed that trip to the dentist!

Premise

A sports comedy that references both sports and *kung fu* films, the movie starts with a premise that has great comic potential: Bring table tennis out of the rec room and into the kung fu ring, where matches are held in basements (accessed through seedy, dark alleys) and bets are placed by lurking, shifty figures with hygiene issues.

Mix in Christopher Walken in purple silk robes.. and "Reno 911's" writing duo, Robert Ben Garant and Thomas Lennon, and you've got a degree of ridiculousness that should make for rip-roaring belly laughs.

As it happens, however, all you get are a few chuckles which, as the movie runs its course, get even fewer and farther spaced. Directed by Garant, the movie starts out with jokes and gags that hit their mark and whet your appetite for more.

However, the momentum isn't sustained, and halfway through the film, you just hold out for the appearance of Walken who, when he does show up, spices things up a bit before the movie goes back to its blah state.

Trailer

For those who haven't seen the movie's promising trailer, here's how the story goes: Randy Daytona (Dan Fogler) is a thirtysomething Ping-Pong has-been.

Once a table tennis prodigy, he suffered humiliating defeat by East Germany's über-Teuton, Karl Wolfschtagg (Thomas Lennon), in the '88 Olympics, which resulted in the death of his father, who had placed a bet on the outcome of the competition.

These days, Randy is playing exhibition Ping-Pong for a living in a dinky Vegas club. He's approached by FBI agent Ernie Rodriguez (George Lopez), who asks for his help in catching the crime lord, Mr. Feng.

Tournament

Randy has to find a way into Feng's headquarters by getting invited to participate in a winners-only Ping-Pong tournament which Feng, a rabid Ping-Pong fan, hosts.

The situation necessitates brushing up on his paddling skills, a task supervised by a blind guru, Master Wong (James Hong), and his lithe and lovely niece, Maggie (Maggie Q).

The film follows the typical underdog-wins-the-day-and-the-lady formula. However, it's not the basic plot that's the problem here—the movie simply isn't funny enough.

Gags work occasionally, but most of them are over-milked. And even the presence of a campy and hammy Christopher Walken isn't enough to save the day.

Drama-comedy tackles plight of OFWs

By Remy M. Umerez

FOR HIS 55TH MOVIE, "KATAS ng Saudi," Jose Javier Reyes is line producing (for Maverick Productions), writing and directing. During a press con in Greenhills, he enthuses about his latest project:

Reyes says it was Sen. Jinggoy Estrada who commissioned him to write a story about the plight of overseas Filipino workers.

Incentives

He explains: "Jinggoy has coauthored a bill that 'discourages' domestic helpers from seeking employment abroad. He said we can do this if there are incentives—like salary increase, days off and SSS membership—that they can take advantage of. Whenever he travels abroad, OFWs capture his attention. He's aware of how lonely they feel to be separated from their loved ones."

The director toyed with the idea for sometime. "It presents a scenario many Filipino families can relate to," he adds. What makes "Katas ng Saudi" different from the stories of Flor Contemplacion, Sarah Balabagan or Delia Maga, which were all turned into films?

He replies: "Katas ng Saudi" is comedy with a touch of drama. The story focuses on the character of Oca Dimaano (Estrada), who returns to Manila after working for many years in Saudi Arabia as a supervisor in an oil refinery. Instead of finding a happy household, however, what he encounters is a house full of strangers! His attempt to be *padre de familia* fails as he confronts a series of domestic disasters."

Should viewers anticipate a happy ending? "On the contrary, the ending will pierce the heart of every moviegoer—especially when his best friend, Pol (Bayani Agbayani), tells Oca that he's considering settling down in Manila for good.

Situation

"Oca intends to do the same, until he discovers that his family has no savings at all! The situation forces him to return to Saudi."

In the film, Lorna Tolentino plays Jinggoy's wife, whom he left behind to take care of the children, played by Shaina Magdayao, Aaron Villaflor and Julian Estrada, Jinggoy's 11-year-old son.

Tips for a fruitful trip

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

A SAGE ONCE ADVISED, "Life is short. With our limited tenure, we should aim for spiritual development. It would be foolish to waste time." As "travelers," we must remember these basic truths:

1. Overloading yourself with material things and desires slows you down. Carrying heavy emotional burdens can cause a flat tire. So, travel light and happy.

2. You are only passing through. Don't treat your house as the final destination. Enrich your life, not your house.

Destination

3. Focus on the real destination—our spiritual home and shelter. Don't get distracted by the side roads. If you get lost, you won't get to your destination.

4. When the time comes, learn to let go. There'll be less pain if you accept that everybody goes through a journey—we all have to move on.

5. Move forward in an enlightened condition. Seek wisdom. Don't drown in illusions and fantasies. It's easier to travel with the light.

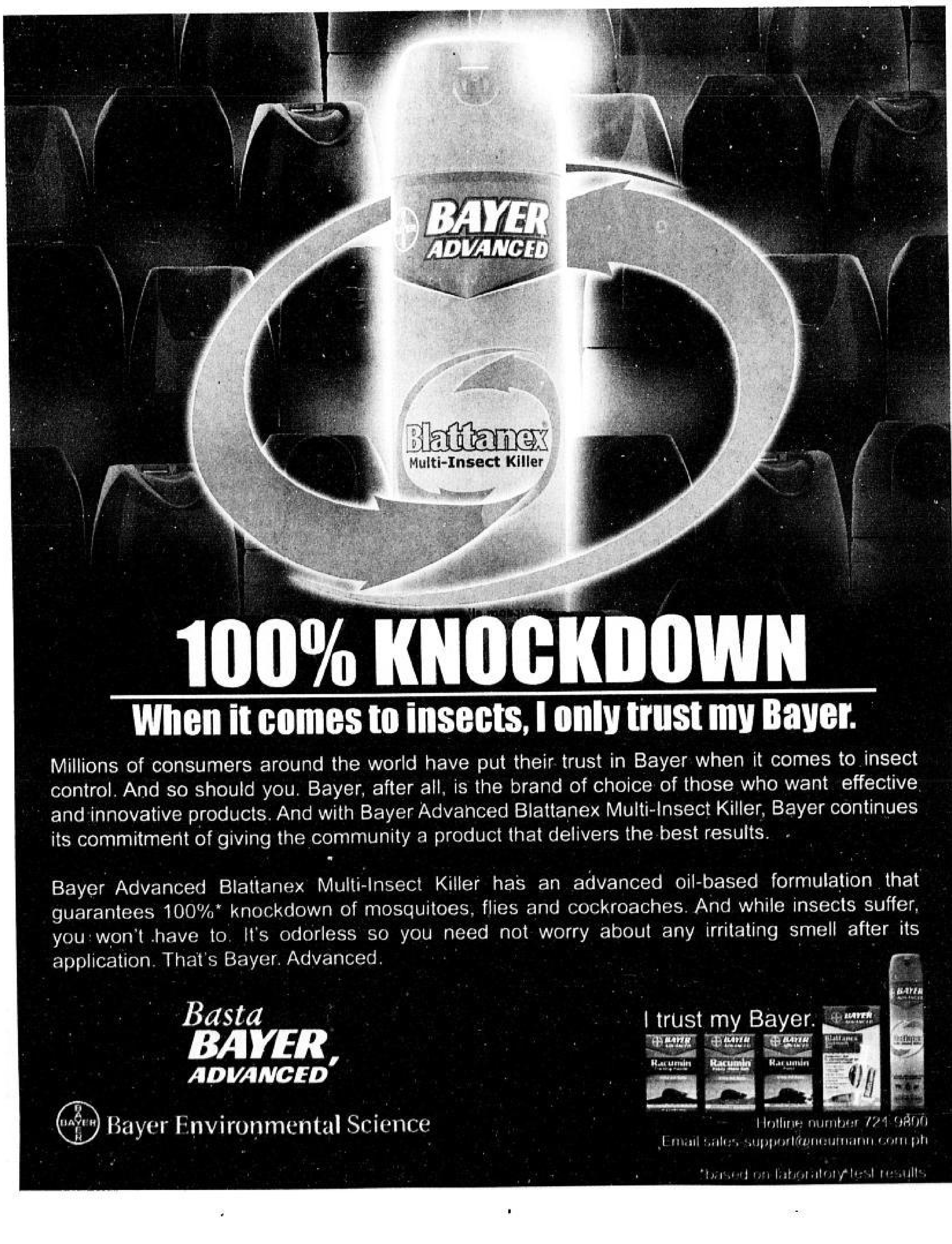
6. Be brave. Cowards don't go far.

7. Take shelter in the Holy Names such as Jehovah, Allah, Rama and Gopala. In the Supreme, you'll find strength, happiness and protection. He provides refuge and love.

8. Be kind to fellow travelers along the way. The journey will be quicker if you help others reach their true home. Be compassionate.

9. Don't procrastinate. Don't prolong your misery in the mundane realm.

10. Be determined to achieve the goal. Only lazy people are contented with lack of progress!



100% KNOCKDOWN

When it comes to insects, I only trust my Bayer.

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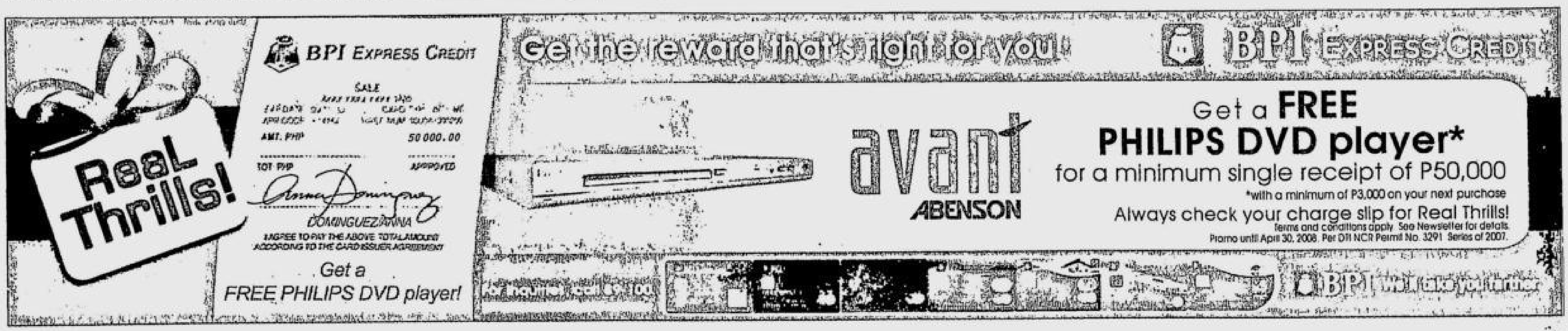
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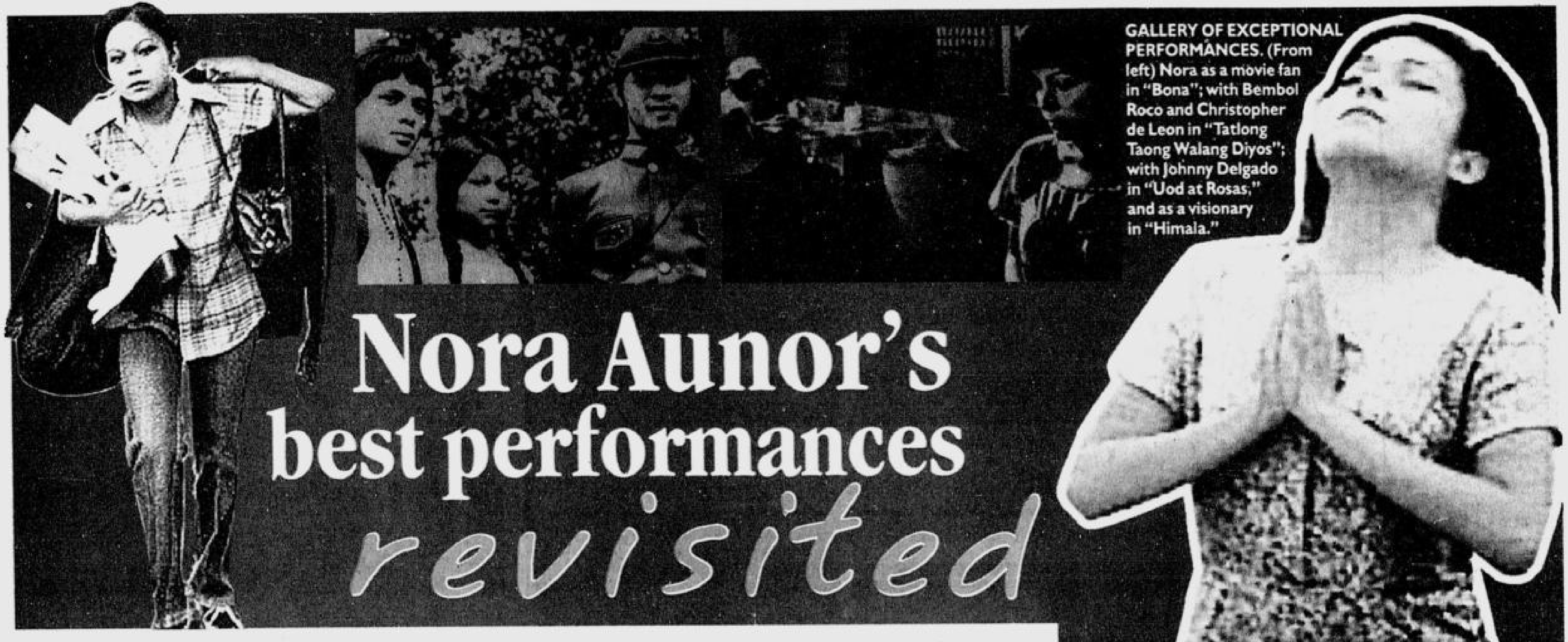

GALLERY OF EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCES. (From left) Nora as a movie fan in "Bona"; with Bembol Roco and Christopher de Leon in "Tatlong Taong Walang Diyos"; with Johnny Delgado in "Uod at Rosas," and as a visionary in "Himala."

Nora Aunor's best performances *revisited*

By Nestor U. Torre

WE RECENTLY WROTE about the best film performances of Nora Aunor, to remind younger viewers of the veteran actress' significant contributions to the local movie industry.

While prepping ourselves for the article, we were able to get hold of Nora's filmography. As we perused the long list, we saw that it contained more information that would be useful to film buffs, hence this follow-up piece:

Four decades

From "Sitting in the Park" in 1967 to 2006's "Ingrata," Nora's filmography informs us that the Superstar acted in a total of around 170 movies! That comes down to something like four films a year for the past four decades, making Aunor one of the industry's busiest stars to date.

Her output becomes even more interesting when we note that Nora has been relatively inactive of late (no films in 2005, 2001 and 2000, for instance), so her output in the '60s and '70s appears to be all the more prodigious (14 movies in 1969, for example). —That's how phenomenally popular she was as a teen star!

Nora herself confirmed this to us when she recalled during one of our conversations that, the year her star zoomed up, she was shooting five films *at the same time!* To make her anecdote even more astounding, Nora added that all five movies were shot in only one big house!

It got so hectic and confusing that, she sighed, "Sometimes, I didn't even know which movie I was shooting that morning—because I would be shooting something else in the afternoon, and a third movie at night: So, they would have to remind me which character I was playing, and the clothes I should be wearing..."

AUNOR. Her many memorable characterizations should be continually celebrated. ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Blockbusters

Today, it's hard to imagine just how overwhelmingly popular Nora was in the '60s and '70s. Even her worst movies turned out to be blockbusters, and she could do no wrong.

Once, when we were researching a movie project for Nora, we traveled by car with her to her hometown in the province. As we drove from town to town, she was instantly recognized and lionized by her many fans.

In one town, they even refused to let us go. They rocked our car back and forth, until Nora got out to wave at them and sign some autographs.

No surprise

Thus, it's no surprise that, according to Nora's filmography, in only her first five years in the movies, the young star had already acted in some 50 films—not many stars make that many films in their entire careers!

The down side to this hyper-activity on Nora's part is the fact that most of her early movies weren't quality productions. In fact, some of them were execrable.

But, it's a testament to Nora's native intelligence that she soon realized that she couldn't continue to make popular but lousy movies.

So, in 1971, we saw the first "OK" Nora starrer, "Lollipops and Roses." And, by 1973, she was acting in some above-average productions, like "Paruparong Itim," "Dalawang Mukha ng Tagumpay," "Erap Is My Guy," "As

NORA/ F3

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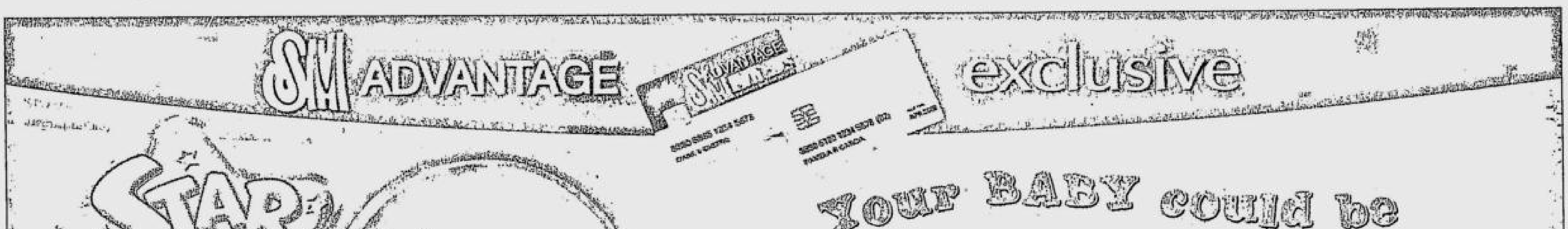
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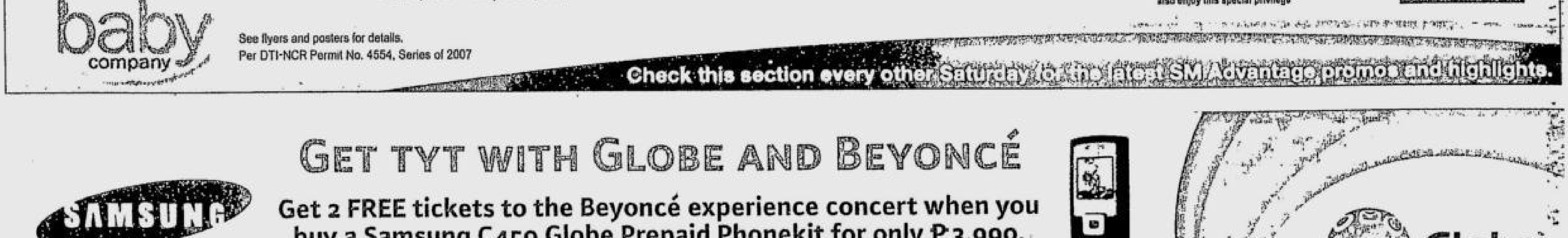
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(DOLBY) 30 DAYS OF NIGHT

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 BALLS OF FURY
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 HALLOWEEN
4 HIDE & SEEK

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266160
3 LUST CAUTION (SNEAK PREVIEW)
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) UNREST
5

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 8433994
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2 HIDE & SEEK
3 HALLOWEEN
4 30 DAYS OF NIGHT

THEATRES
telephone no. (044) 600-0025
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 STURDUST
3 HIDE & SEEK

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel. (042) 660-6271
1 HIDE & SEEK
2 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 HALLOWEEN
2 RESIDENT EVIL
3 UNREST
4 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
5 BALLS OF FURY
6 STARDUST
7 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
8 LUST CAUTION (SNEAK PREVIEW)
9 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
10 HIDE & SEEK

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
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3 (DOLBY) 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

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Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
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3 RESERVED
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5 30 DAYS OF NIGHT

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Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4445346)
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2 THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING

Jade Cinema
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3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
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Centre Plaza Cinema
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4 LUST CAUTION (SNEAK PREVIEW)

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2 HIDE & SEEK
3 DON'T LOOKBACK
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Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
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2 RESERVED
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Explosive . . .

From page F3

On Nov. 8 at 4 p.m., "How It's Built: Steel" shows viewers the diverse innovations that steel has given birth to.

Dance season

At 4 p.m. on Nov. 11 at the Francisco Santiago Hall, the MCO Arts Festival presents its dance season, featuring these groups: Academy One Music and Dance Company, Company of Arts Manila, Ecole de Ballet Manille and Vella C. Damian School of Ballet. Call 878-4359.

Eiga Sai Fringe

From Nov. 8 to 13 at the Antonio Molina Hall, BDO South Tower, H.V. de la Costa st., Makati City, The Japan Foundation, Manila, presents Eiga Sai Fringe, featuring Japanese documentary and contemporary films. Highlights: "Abong" (Small Home) by Koji Imaizumi and "Abduction: The Megumi Yukata Story," a multiawarded documentary by Chris Sheridan and Patty Kim. Website: www.jfmo.org.ph.

Beyoncé in Manila

Dazzling pop diva Beyoncé performs on Nov. 7 at the Bonifacio City Open Field in a concert of sensual and exciting musical delights presented by Globe and MTV Philippines. Visit www.ticketworld.com.ph.

Mossimo at MOA

Mossimo at the Mall of Asia today presents Julianne, Miguel Escueta, Urbanation and Thor in performance and meet-and-greet sessions. Tomorrow, the featured artists are Barbie Almalbis, Rocksteddy, Luke Mejares and Retrospect.

'Power to Unite'

Rev. Renato Mayugba, Auxiliary Bishop of Lingayen-Dagupan, is the featured guest in this Tuesday's (Nov. 6) episode of "Power to Unite," a weekly program that airs over NBN Channel 4 at 7 p.m.

In the episode shot in the Church of the Benedictine Abbey (San Beda Chapel), Bishop Mayugba explains to TV host Elvira Go that the Basic Eclesial Community is actually the family. In invigorating faith in any community, the revival should begin with family unity.

The episode's theme is "Love Never Gives Up." This is embodied by the Ullero family, who found solace in the Bible even when they were in dire financial straits.

The Angelos, a quintet of young singers, provides musical entertainment.

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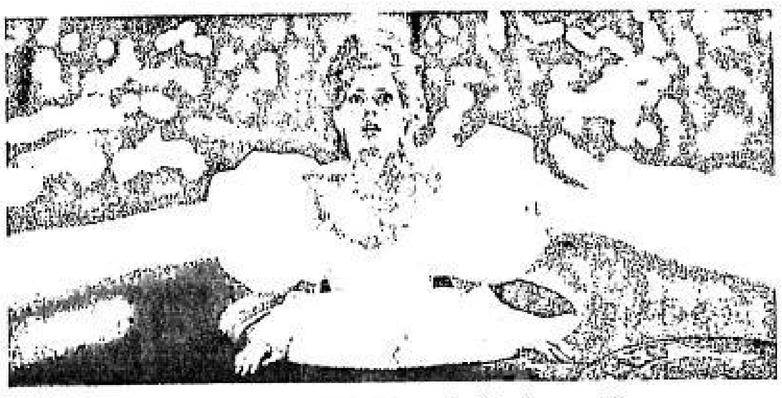
From page F4


ADAMS. Plays a princess in Walt Disney's "Enchanted."

happening at The Little Gym. Walt Disney Studios partners with the premier child development franchise for the promotions of the highly anticipated film, "Enchanted."

Featuring an all-star cast, the movie is about making dreams come true. The Little Gym, known for its specialized classes and the wholistic development of children, forms the perfect partnership with the film, to help children achieve whatever they want.

"Enchanted" is a filmic fairy tale that crosses centuries and bridges animation and live action. Amy Adams plays Princess Giselle, who is banished from Andalasia by the villainous Queen Nerissa (Susan Sarandon).

To kick off the film's debut, The Little Gym will hold a raffle draw that will send the winner to Hollywood to attend the film's red-carpet premiere.

The Little Gym will also screen "Enchanted" for its loyal members. In addition, new members can win a free trip to Hong Kong Disneyland. The Little Gym has branches in Alabang (850-4060), Makati (815-1735) and Pasig-Mandaluyong (637-2463).

JAY-R. Reveals smoother side in concert series.

'Soul in Love'

Jay-R is all set for his two-night concert series, "Soul in Love," at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarins Oriental Manila on Nov. 9 and 17, with special guests, Pops Fernandez and Kuh Ledesma. He unravels his smoother, mellower side by way of vintage soul, torch standards and Motown R&B classic.

"Soul in Love" marks Jay-R's first solo stint at the Mandarin's famous Captain's Bar, which features the top musical acts in the biz. He will also have a solo show at the Folk Arts Theater on Nov. 30. Call 637-7016.

'Superbad' sneak previews

"Superbad," the surprise comedy blockbuster of the year, will have special sneak previews on Nov. 5 and 6 in selected theaters. The hilarious movie is a cautionary coming-of-age tale about two socially inept teenage boys about to graduate from high school.

It details their misguided attempts to woo the objects of their affections in one panic-driven night—that awful, humiliating night you cherish for the rest of your life!

'Art2Art'

Ronnie Lazaro guests on Lisa Macuja's engaging radio program, "Art2Art," at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow on dzRH. Lazaro talks about his Ilonggo roots, his colorful experiences as an actor, and the newly formed Artists Welfare Project, of which he is president.

Centennial awards

The Centennial Awards of St. Scholastica's School of Music and Music Alumnae recently announced these honors: Outstanding Music Centennial Awards—Sr. Mary Placid Abejo, OSB and Dr. Lucrecia R. Kasilag. Concert Artists Awardees—Leonor Kilayko, Manuel P. Maramba, OSB, Virginia Laico Villanueva. Solo Artists Awardees—Marguerita Echaus, Angelina Gutierrez, Sr. Elena Marie Hervas, R.A., Zenas Reyes Lozada. Duo Artists Awardees—Mary Ann W. Añover, Mary Ann R. Armovit, Della G. Besa, Anamaria G. de Guzman, Mary Jo W. Tampingco. Music Composition Awardees—Manuel P. Marmaba, OSB and Jude Edgard Balsamo.

CURTIS. Endorses dynamic fashion brand for young women.

Anne Curtis for Freeway

Freeway, a contemporary and dynamic fashion brand for young women, has found a chic endorser in popular young star, Anne Curtis. Anne says she loves Freeway because it has varied and versatile pieces to suit her every mood.

Anne is modeling Freeway's bright, new holiday collection by Mel Orlina, which features everything from structured smart pieces to soft, flowing drapes and comfy stretch jerseys.

Movies on TV

On HBO today at 3 p.m., "Broken Flowers." Tomorrow at 7 a.m., "The Producers." I p.m., "Dance with Me." Nov. 4 at 11 a.m., "The Burbs." Nov. 6 at 11 p.m., "Elizabethtown." Nov. 8 at 3 p.m., "Zathura." Nov. 9 at 7 a.m., "Heaven Can Wait." 9 p.m., "Meet Joe Black."

On Cinemax today at 1 p.m., "Dragonheart: A New Beginning." Tomorrow at 9 p.m., "The Island." Nov. 5 at 7 a.m., "The Bridge on the River Kwai." Nov. 6 at 9:15 a.m., "Dirty Harry." Nov. 7 at 1 p.m., "The Dennis Rodman Story." Nov 8 at 7 p.m., "Plots with A View." Nov. 9 at 1 a.m., "The Ballad of Josie."

'El Filibusterismo'

Gantimpala Theater Foundation presents "El Filibusterismo," Jomar Fleras' stage version of Jose Rizal's novel, tomorrow at Rizal Park, Nov. 9-11, 23-24 at AFP Theater, and Nov. 16-17 at SM Southmall. Soxie Topacio directs. Call 899-5745.

'Intimate Enemies'

On Nov. 5 at 8 p.m., "Intimate Enemies" premieres on the National Geographic Channel. The docu recounts the life and death struggle of the lion and the water buffalo.

EXPLOSIVE/ F2

MICHAEL Sera and Jonah Hill topbill the surprise comedy blockbuster, "Superbad."

Nora Aunor's . . .

From page F1

Long As There's Music" and "Carnival Song."

Significant productions

Even better, only two years later, Nora was already hitting her stride as a serious actress in significant productions like "Fe, Esperenza, Caridad" and "Banaue."

Her other exceptional film outings include "Minsa'y Isang Gamu-gamo," "Tatlong Taong Walang Diyos," "Bona," "Uod at Rosas," "Ina Ka ng Anak Mo," and "Atsay."

Some of Nora's most important starrers didn't do well at the box office, but she forged on, putting her career at risk just so she could be directed by some of the country's best filmmakers, like Gerry de Leon and Lino Brocka.

Not many superstars are capable of such daring and risky devotion to quality productions, so Nora Aunor deserves our admiration and gratitude. All the more reason, then, to support her in her future endeavors.

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1 STARDUST MTRCB GP 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30
2 BALLS OF FURY MTRCB GP 1:05, 3:15 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT MTRCB R-13 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
4 HALLOWEEN MTRCB R-13 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30
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2 BALLS OF FURY 2:10, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45, 11:00 G
3 HALLOWEEN 3:20, 5:45, 8:10, 10:35 R-13
4 LUST, CAUTION 1:25, 4:35, 7:45,10:55 R-18

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HALLOWEEN R13 1:00,3:20,5:40, 8:00,10:20	RENDITION R13 12:30,3:00,5:30, 8:00,10:30	BALLS OF FURY G 12:10,2:10,4:10, 6:10,8:10,10:10
LUST CAUTION R18 1:00,4:10,7:20,10:30	STARDUST G 12:00,2:25,5:00, 7:35,10:10	30 DAYS OF NIGHT R13 12:50,3:15,5:40, 8:05,10:30

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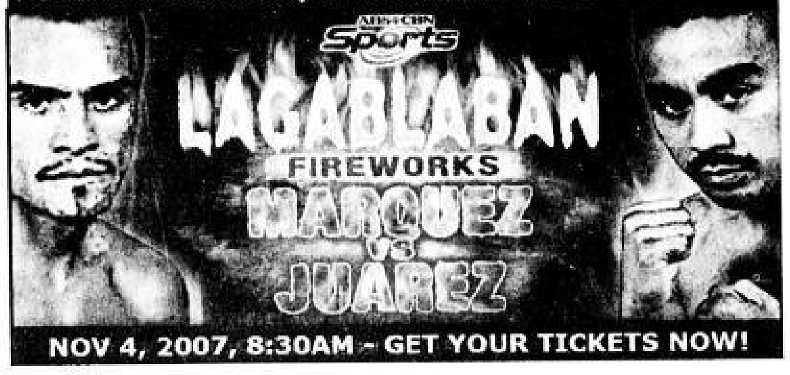
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November 20 , 2007	Angelos	8:00 PM
November 22 , 2007	Body Builders	8:00 PM

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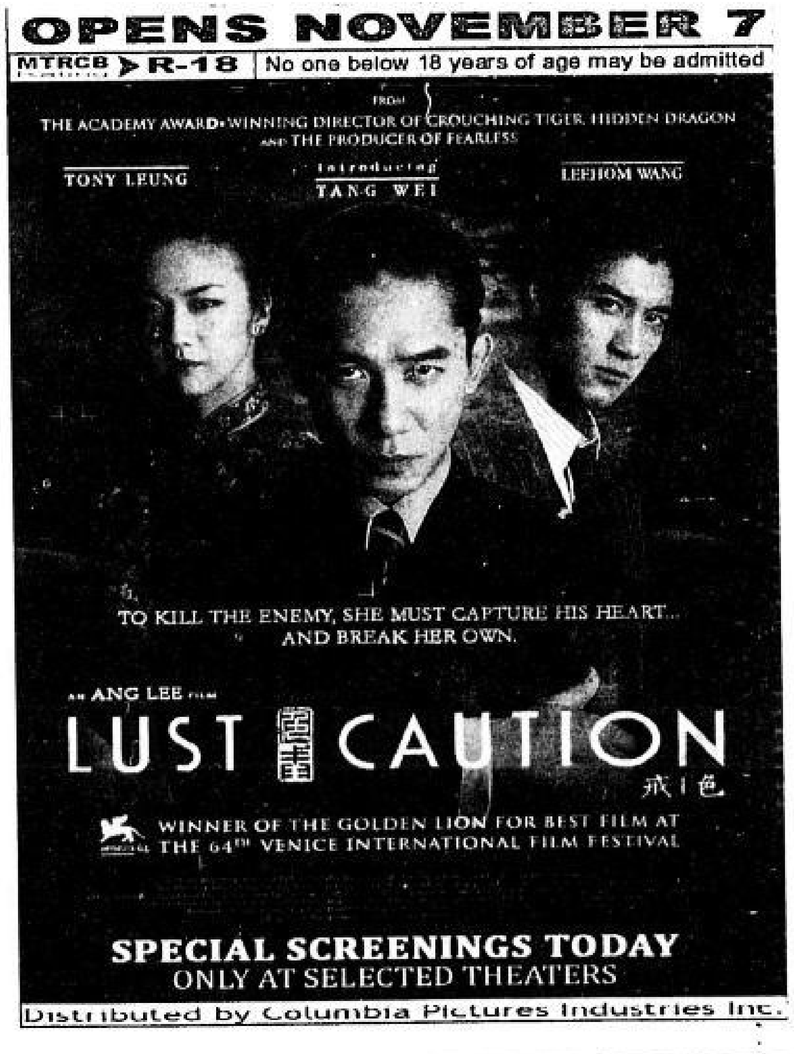
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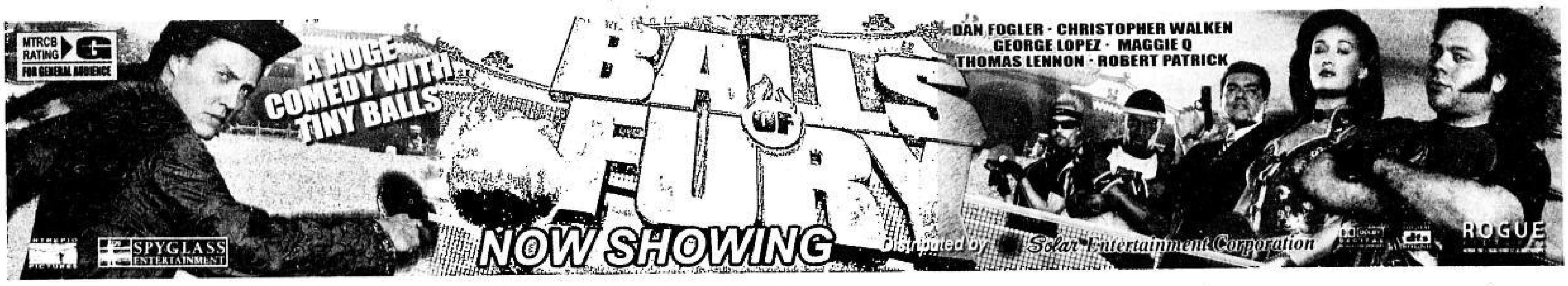
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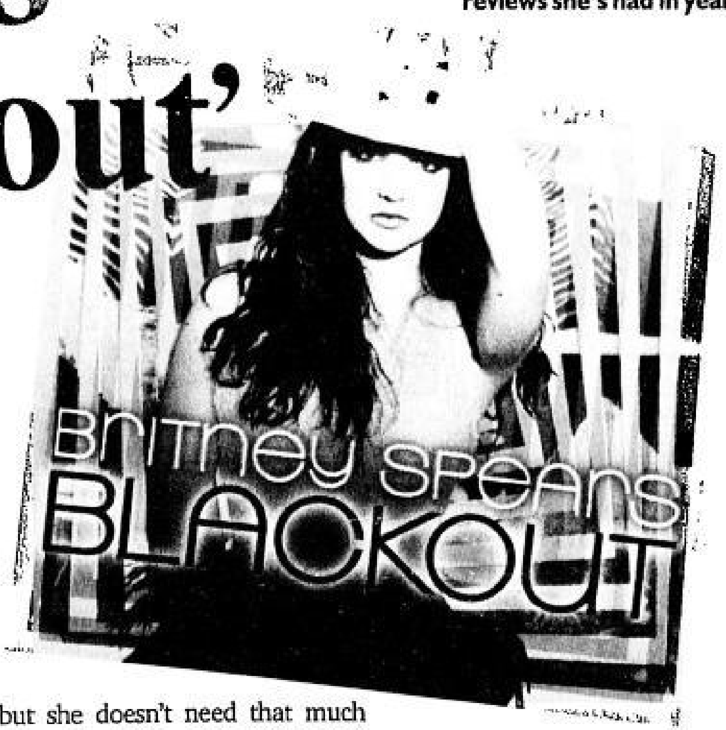
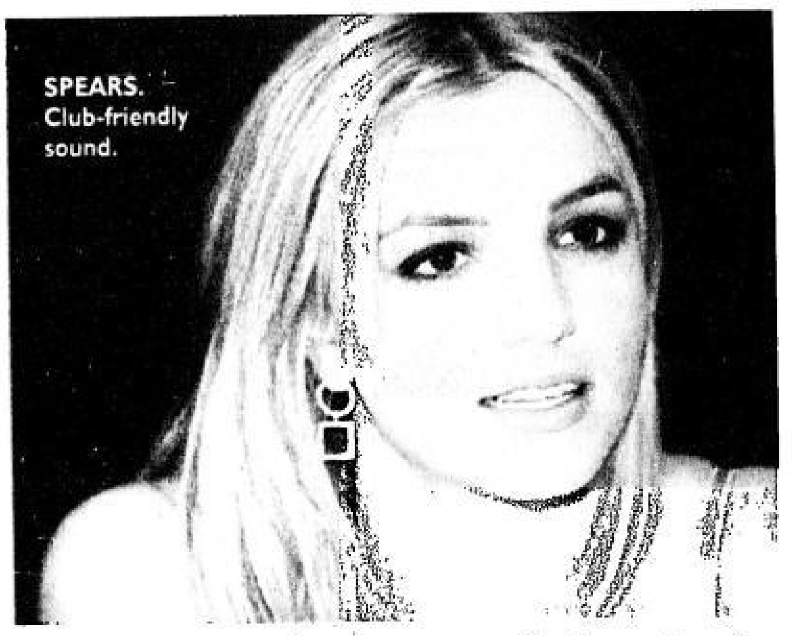
Britney Spears recovers lost ground with 'Blackout'



THE POP star's latest recording has earned her some of the best reviews she's had in years.


SPEARS. Club-friendly sound.

LOS ANGELES—ON HER NEW CD, "Blackout," Britney Spears acknowledges that 2007 has not been a charmed year. "I'm Mrs. Bad Media Karma, another day another drama," the 25-year-old pop princess croons to a thumping dance groove on the song, "Piece of Me."

"Another day, another debacle" might have been a more apropos lyric. In just a year's time, Spears has become the ultimate case study for the "When Celebs Go Bad" file:

She has been an out-of-control party girl, landed in rehab, lost temporary custody of her two young sons, given a horrendous performance on live TV and gotten herself arrested.

Litany of woes

But, despite her litany of woes, "Blackout," may be the one positive note in an otherwise dreadful year. So far, it has earned her a Top 10 single (with "Gimme More") and some of the best reviews she has had in years.

Could "Blackout" be the break Britney needs? Industry insiders, fans and critics are saying "yes." "One of the problems for Britney right now is, the public is more focused on her personal life than her music. This record is an opportunity to change that," explains Rolling Stone's Joe Levy, who called the album "state of the art."

"People are tired of hearing about the negative stuff going on in her personal life, and they'll gravitate to the new sound she's putting out," muses Nate "Danja" Hills, who produced four songs on dance-focused "Blackout." "This is a rebirth. It's a new musical chapter for her," he adds.

Spears' musical past is already the stuff of legend. She was 16 when she put out her first album, "... Baby One More Time," in 1999. Fueled by the title track, which had the teen crooning the refrain "Hit me baby one more time," the album sold more than 14 million copies in the United States—and made her an international superstar.

She's released three multiplatinum studio albums since then, had best-selling tours, several hit singles, and starred in a movie (the less-than-successful 2002 flick "Crossroads").

Freak-show status

But Spears, who turns 26 in December, has not released an album of original material since 2003's "In the Zone." Since then, she's been relegated to the tabloid realm of celebrity, in danger of rivaling Michael Jackson in freak-show status.

Still, Junior Sanchez of Los Angeles, a 21-year-old college student, says the singer's woes make him "feel more attached to her."

"I can tell she's going through bad stuff right now," he shares. "Her fans don't care about her personal life. We care about her music and the way she performs."

Though Sanchez was "really disappointed" with Spears' appearance at MTV's Video Music Awards, he eagerly sought leaks of her new album online and says he likes what he's heard so far. "It's one of her best, I honestly think," he observes. "I'm ready to buy her records—and I'm ready to buy tickets to her concert!"

Sanchez isn't alone. "Gimme" was the top-selling digital song on the week of its release, and Spears losing custody of her two toddlers a week later didn't slow sales.

Fans remain loyal despite the drama, says Jerry Del Colliano, a music-industry professor at University of Southern California. "Look at her single sales," he reasons. "She couldn't have been through a darker time. She embarrassed herself on television, she was ridiculed by bloggers and still, she was No. 1."

Chart

However, "Gimme" topped out at No. 3 on the Billboard Hot 100 Singles chart and, after seven weeks, has dropped to No. 13. Still, marketing consultant Ryan Schinman, president of Platinum Rye Entertainment, said: "I'd be shocked if this didn't go platinum.

"It certainly doesn't help that she can't promote this properly, but she doesn't need that much promotion," he adds. "You can't get more out there than she's been out there. The album is going to sell. People are curious, because they know what a train wreck she's been!"

It may help Spears that her club-friendly sound appeals to an older audience rather than the teens and tweens she originally courted, says Geoff Mayfield, Billboard's senior analyst and director of charts: "If kids were still a huge part of her album base, the nefarious publicity would be more troublesome."

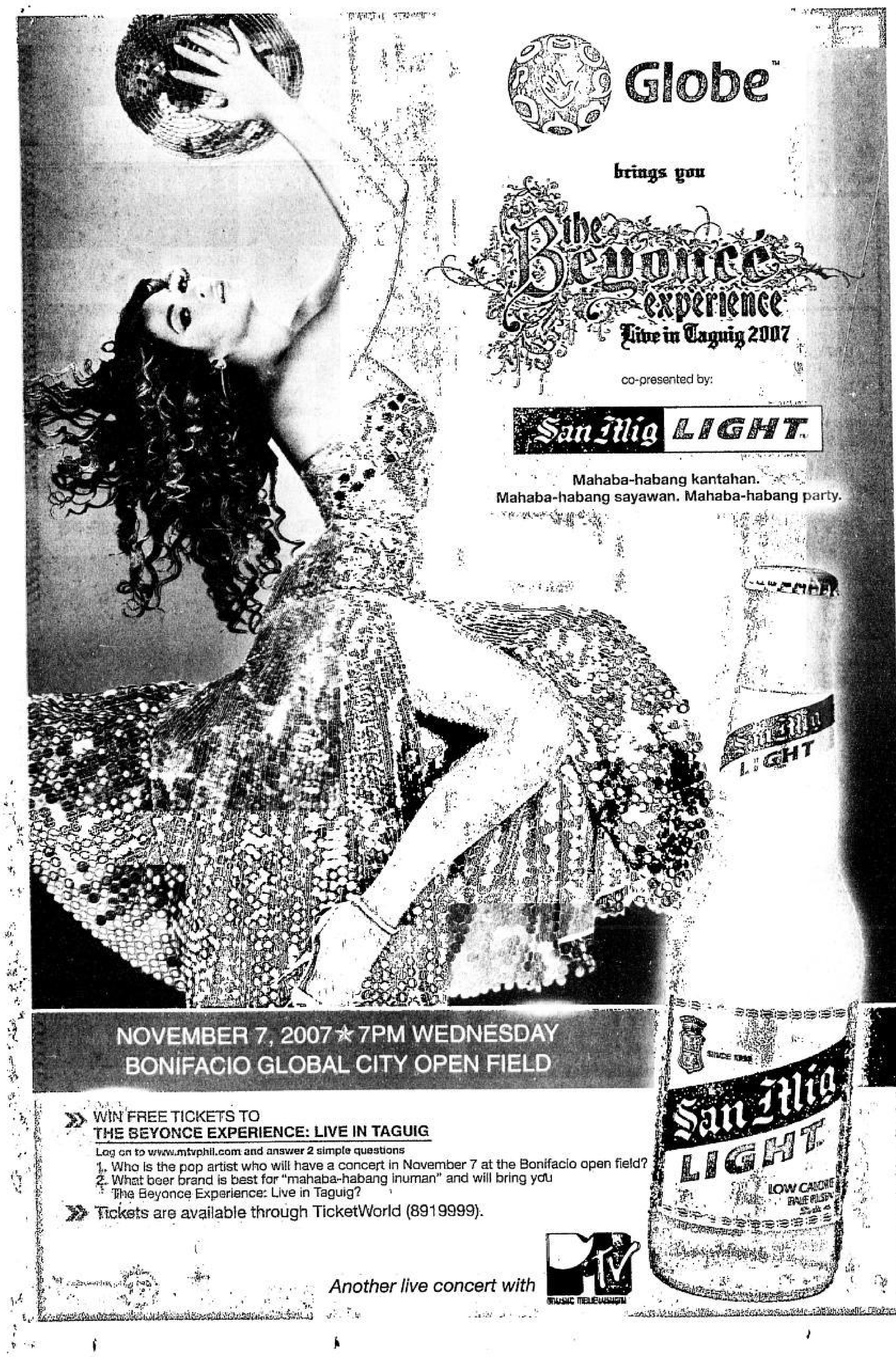
"Blackout" features 12 thumping dance tracks crafted by top pop and hiphop producers, including Bloodshy & Avant (who produced Spears' 2004 Grammy-winning hit, "Toxic") and Danja, the beatmaster behind Spears' single, "Gimme More."

Danja, a Timbaland protege who already scored hits with Justin Timberlake and Nelly Furtado, says he was "excited" to work with Spears. He expects people to support the album, which has a "hard-hitting, dark and sexy vibe."

Contract

Jive Records, Spears' label since her debut, has remained mostly mum about the pop star. Jive officials declined to discuss why the album's release date was changed, how many more albums are in Spears' contract, or the marketing challenges involved with promoting the troubled singer.

"As Britney's label, it's not our place to comment on her personal issues, but we do care about her," label spokesperson Allan Mayer said. "Britney's a grown woman. She makes her own choices, and we respect that. But, she faces challenges that most of us can't even imagine!" *AP*



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PHOENIX. Costars with Mark Wahlberg in James Grey's searing drama.

Explosive stellar combination in 'We Own the Night'

MONTAGE

JOAQUIN PHOENIX AND MARK Wahlberg are an explosive stellar combination as combative brothers in "We Own The Night." One (Wahlberg) is a law enforcer, the other a law breaker. See what happens when their radically different worlds collide!

Writer-director James Grey's drama is set in New York in 1988, when a new breed of narcotics sweeps the city, bringing with it a ferocious crime wave. Outmanned and outgunned, the police bury one of their own at the rate of two a month. An all-out war rages, threatening to engulf the guilty and the innocent alike.

As manager of a nightclub frequented by gangsters, Phoenix's character refuses to get involved—but is forced to take sides when his brother's life is at stake. Robert Duvall and Eva Mendes also star.

Triumph and romance on Hallmark

PERRY. Plays a brilliant teacher in Hallmark's "The Triumph."

Inspiring movies premiere on the Hallmark Channel this month, led by "The Triumph" at 10 p.m. on Nov. 11. Based on a true story, the film stars Matthew Perry as Ron Clark, a brilliant teacher who introduces a groundbreaking approach that not only wins his troubled students' hearts but also works miracles in their lives.

At 10 p.m. on Nov. 18, "The Engagement Ring" casts Patricia Heaton ("Everybody Loves Raymond") as a formidable businesswoman whose discovery of an engagement ring's significance propels her to the middle of an ongoing feud between her mother (Lainie Kazan) and her former childhood sweetheart (Tony LaBianco), from whom she was separated by a cruel twist of fate.

Also watch "Without A Trace," Mondays at 9 p.m.; "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit," Thursdays at 9 p.m.; "E.R.," weeknights t 8 p.m., and "The Starter Wife," Sundays at 9 p.m.

New shows on Nickelodeon

Catch the premiere of "Ricky Sprocket" at 12 noon and 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 8, and at 1 p.m. on Nov. 10. It's about the world's most famous child star, who is rich beyond belief, but is filled with childhood anxieties.

There's more! Join "The Great Parent Mystery" on "Catdog" at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 8, as Catdog go on a parent hunt and run into aliens, hillbillies and fire ants.

"Wonder Pets" returns at 9 a.m. on Nov. 12, with Linny the Guinea Pig, Ming-Ming Duckling and Turtle Tuck. And your favorite Nick characters are featured in "Know Your Nicktoons," a three-hour marathon from 12 noon to 3 p.m. from Nov 19 to 30.

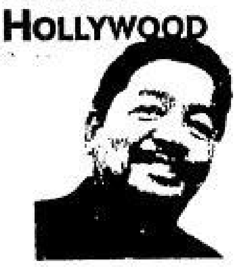
The Little Gym and 'Enchanted'

Something magical is

EXPLOSIVE/ F3

Steve Carell is funnier in real life

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD



Ruben V. Nepales

CARELL AND BINOCHE. Team up in critically-acclaimed comedy, "Dan In Real Life."

LOS ANGELES—IT'S ONE OF THE sweet ironies in Steve Carell's life that the beautiful, award-winning French actress, Juliette Binoche, didn't know who he was until they starred opposite each other in the film, "Dan In Real Life."

In Steve's case, having Juliette as his leading lady was something he never expected to happen. Now, the romantic comedy is giving him the best critical notices so far in his acting career.

The added irony is that, while "Dan In Real Life" is being hailed as a surprisingly sweet, sophisticated comedy, its box-office numbers have not matched the resounding critical acclaim.

After playing "The 40-Year-Old Virgin" and a suicidal gay scholar in "Little Miss Sunshine," the comic, in his latest film, portrays a widowed parental-advice columnist who unwittingly falls for his brother's girlfriend. This dilemma tests his own self-imposed strict rules for behavior.

A late bloomer in his acting career, Steve first worked as a radio deejay and postman. He quit the latter job because he was, in his own words, "very bad at it." He applied for law school, but that didn't pan out—because he was not able to write the required essay on why he wanted to be a barrister!

Carell finally found his calling when he joined Chicago's famous comedy troupe, "The Second City." He had to struggle to get the string of TV and movie roles that eventually made him a star.

These days, even with his success as a film actor, the 45-year-old comedian has not abandoned "The Office," the TV sitcom that won him a Golden Globe in 2006. This attitude springs from his practical belief about how fleeting fame can be.

In the press con, Steve also injected sober comments like: "There's no way I could have planned any of this success. This may not continue in the future, so I'm just enjoying the moment!"

The actor is married to "Saturday Night Live" alumna, Nancy Walls, with whom he has two children. He stars next in "Get Smart," a movie remake of the 1960s TV series. Excerpts:

Do you have brothers?

I have three older brothers.

Have you ever desired...

Have I ever stolen my brother's girlfriend, is that what you are asking me?

Yes.

I did that with every single girlfriend of my brothers, and I married each of them *(laughter)*. No, we've never gotten into that sort of domestic encounter. Fortunately.

When your wife is at home with your kids while you're acting, and she hears that you're working with a beautiful actress like Juliette Binoche...

Or that I'm doing a shower scene with her *(laughter)*. Imagine *that* phone call on the day of the shooting. She asked: "What are you shooting today?" I answered, "There's a scene in the laundry room. Then, we're going upstairs to shoot the shower scene . . ."

She was like, "Wait, *what? (Laughter)* What are you doing in the shower scene?!" No. She's completely cool about that. Frankly, she knows that Juliette is out of my league *(laughter)*.

Are you glad that your success happened much later, not earlier?

If this had happened when I was 20, I'd be a complete ass *(laughter)*. At this point, my family is more important than anything. This is icing on the cake—incredibly fun and rewarding.

How has life changed for you from when you were in your 30s?

The main thing is that, I do have two little kids now. That has become the focus of our lives. They give us more joy than anything we could have ever anticipated. We have more money than we did 10 years ago.

Apart from that, it's not dramatically different. I'm acting. I'm certainly doing more high-profile things than I was 10 years ago.

What's your advice for relationships in Hollywood to last?

Everyone's personal experiences are so different that I would honestly never venture to give advice in terms of what will work and what won't. In our case, my wife and I laugh a lot. That's helpful for any relationship—sense of humor and caring. Don't let the romance go out!

How about...?

Fornication? *(Laughter) That* helps, as well.

Communication.

Oh. Communication. Well, they're one and the same. Fornication is the most ancient form of communication *(laughter)*.

In the movie, the way your character meets Juliette in a bookstore is almost perfect. Before you got married, how easy or hard was it for you to meet women?

It was impossible! I was terrible at dating. I honestly don't remember ever asking a woman out on a date. Anyone that I ended up having a relationship with was somebody I met through work, or I became friends with. It was not because I was shy—I just wasn't good at it!

How did you meet your wife?

I worked with her at The Second City in Chicago. She was also a bartender. I'd sit down, have a drink, and talk to her. But, it took months before we accommodated the idea of going out on a date. We were both painfully shy.

She would say things like, "If I ever went out with a guy like you, that would be neat *(laughter)*." Then, I'd say, "If I asked someone like you on a date, that would be weird—and I'd be scared about you saying no!" She replied: "I don't think I'd say no if someone like you asked me *(laughter)*."

It took so long for the question and answer to come out. But, when they finally did, things were fine. We were such nerds about it!

Is your next film, "Get Smart," a

STEVE/ G3

Hepburn papers reveal woman of strength

NEW YORK—A PEEK INSIDE THE PRIVATE world of legendary actress Katharine Hepburn reveals a woman resembling the strong-willed characters she often portrayed.

A trove of personal documents going on display in February at the New York Public Library portrays Hepburn as the kind of woman who would call the Oklahoma cop who had arrested her a "moron" to his face and take a stand in defense of a vulgarity uttered in a Los Angeles stage production.

But, she could also be insecure about her acting ability, documenting how hard she worked. There are copious notes Hepburn used for help with intonation, cadence or pitch.

HEPBURN. Determined and witty, sometimes arrogant, often imperious.

Letters

The library acquired thousands of pages of notes, journals, annotated scripts, contracts and letters pertaining to Hepburn's stage career through the executor of her estate, journalist Cynthia McFadden.

The collection will be accessible to the public starting in February and spans the late 1920s to the early 1990s, including the handwritten letter of introduction to producer/director George Tyler, in which the soon-to-be star is deemed "a young actress of possibilities."

The four-time Oscar-winning actress, who died in 2003 aged 96, comes off as determined and witty, sometimes arrogant, often imperious.

Yet, the collection reveals little about her personal life. One leather scrapbook from the play, "Coco," bears the monogram "S.T.," presumably that of her most famous lover, Spencer Tracy.

Catalogue

The catalogue includes dog-eared scripts with Hepburn's notations in the margins, pristine photos and well-worn correspondences. Apparently, she saved pretty much everything.

Responding to what is in essence a fan letter from Charlton Heston during her final Broadway play, "The West Side Waltz," she writes, "What a nice letter. Many thanks."

One text details a speech to an audience on the 1970 campus killings of four youths at Kent State University during an antiwar demonstration. Hepburn, who generally eschewed politics in her public life, asked for a minute of silence.

Other papers reveal she sometimes doubted her abilities. "She was very nervous about doing 'Coco,'" said Bob Taylor, curator of the library's Billy Rose Theatre Division, referring to the 1969 Broadway musical about the designer, Coco Chanel.

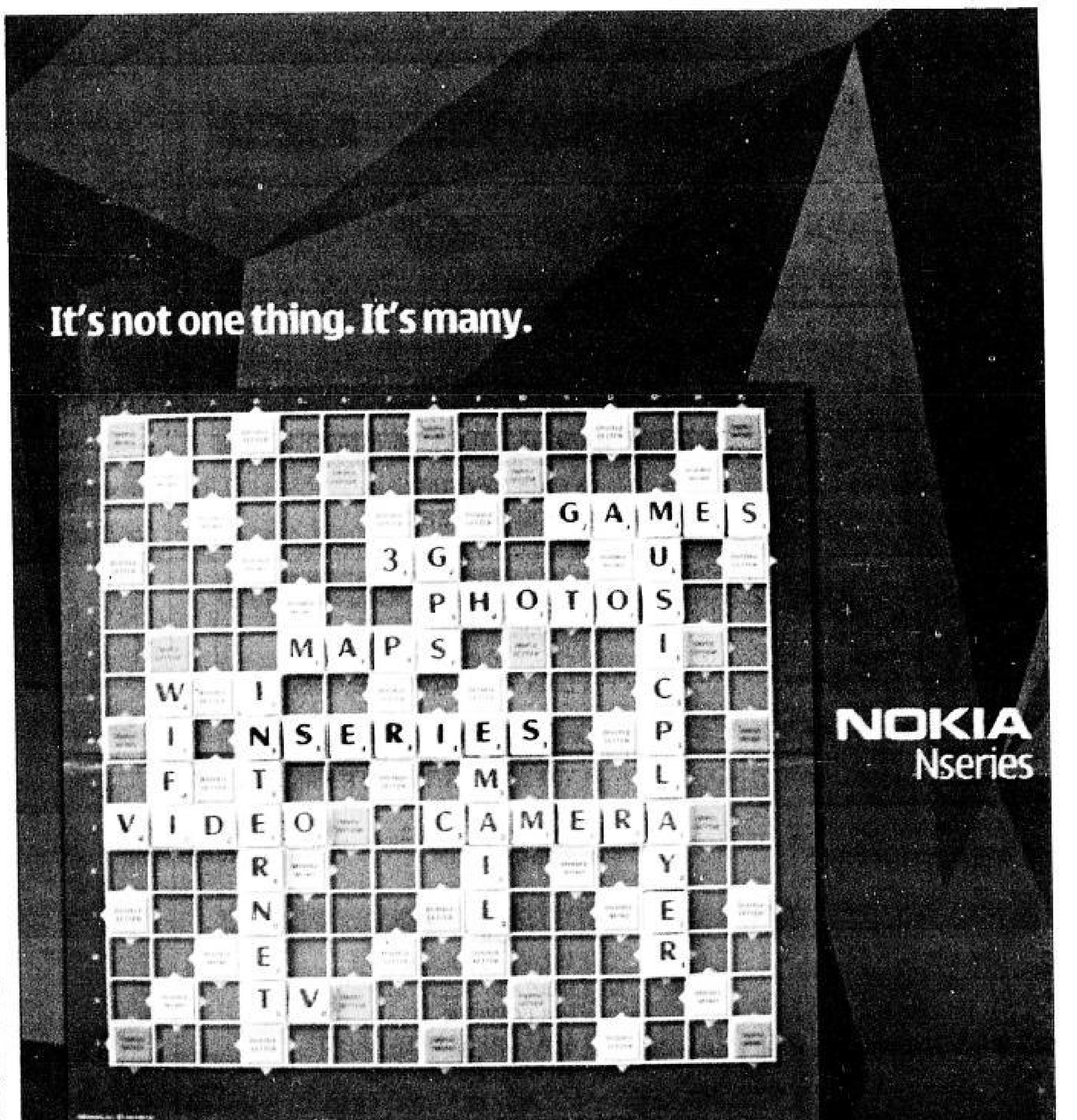
Vocal exercises

"She'd never done a musical. It didn't always come easily to her. She worked very hard doing these vocal exercises," he said, pointing to her notes.

A 1950 journal entry from her tour in "As You Like It" recalls being arrested by an Oklahoma police officer she describes as "handsome in a dull sort of way."

Hepburn recounts that she "slammed the door in his face" upon arriving at a lawyer's office, before boldly declaring:

HEPBURN/ G4



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5 HIDE and SEEK
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

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7 UNREST 1:00 3:15
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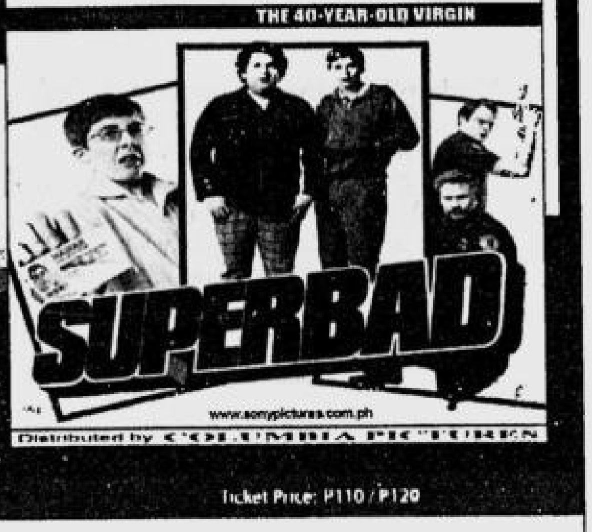

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12:30 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

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UNREST 6:00 8:00 10:00

5 BALLS of FURY
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4 HALLOWEEN
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5 BUTTERFLY on a WHEEL
6 RESIDENT EVIL 3

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11 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
12 CARTOON NETWORK

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416

1 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
2 HALLOWEEN
3 BALLS OF FURY
4 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
5 HIDE & SEEK
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
7 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
8 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
9 RENDITION/CARTOON NETWORK
10 RESIDENT EVIL 3

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488

1 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
2 BALLS OF FURY
3 UNREST
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT/ CARTOON NETWORK
5 HALLOWEEN
6 HIDE AND SEEK

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888

1 BALLS OF FURY
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 30 DAYS OD NIGHT
4 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
5 HALLOWEEN
6 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
7 UNREST
8 HIDE AND SEEK
9 RENDITION/CARTOON NETWORK

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055

1 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 HALLOWEEN
4 BALLS OF FURY

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240

1 HALLOWEEN
2 BALLS OF FURY
3 HIDE AND SEEK
4 UNREST
5 RESIDENT EVIL 3
6 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
7 11TH HOUR/CARTOON NETWORK
8 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
9 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
10 RENDITION
11 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
12 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04

1 HALLOWEEN
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 HIDE AND SEEK
4 HIGHLANDER V

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917

1 RENDITION
2 HALLOWEEN
3 UNREST
4 HIDE AND SEEK

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2 HALLOWEEN
3 HIDE AND SEEK
4 30 DAY OF NIGHT

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5 UNREST
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
7 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
8 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45

1 HALLOWEEN
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 STARDUST
4 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
5 HIDE AND SEEK
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT/ CARTOON NETWORK

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17

1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 HALLOWEEN
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

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2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 STARDUST
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

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1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 KUNG FU FIGHTER
3 HALLOWEEN
4 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT/ CARTOON NETWORK
6 HIDE & SEEK

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187

1 STARDUST
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
4 RESIDENT EVIL

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1 STARDUST
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

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1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 HALLOWEEN
4 NO RESERVATIONS

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2 HALLOWEEN
3 BALLS OF FURY
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811

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2 HIGHLANDER V
3 HIDE & SEEK
4 HALLOWEEN

VISAYAS MINDANAO

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2 STARDUST
3 HIDE AND SEEK
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6 HALLOWEEN

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1 STARDUST
2 HALLOWEEN
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4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
5 BRATZ/ OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT/ CARTOON NETWORK
7 HIDE & SEEK
8 KUNG FU FIGHTER

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4 HIDE AND SEEK

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Gay roles disappearing from broadcast television

LOS ANGELES—GAY PEOPLE ARE becoming an endangered species on network television.

A new report says a total of seven series on the five broadcast networks feature regular lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) characters now—down from nine last season. The number has dropped for the past three years, according to the annual "Where We Are on TV?" study by the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

The only non-heterosexual regular character appearing on a new show is Bonnie Somerville's bisexual Caitlin Dowd on ABC's drama, "Cashmere Mafia," which premieres in December.

"UGLY BETTY" features a regular homosexual character.

Most inclusive

ABC continues by a mile to be the most inclusive of LGBT representation. The network accounts for six of the seven characters in its series, "Brothers & Sisters," "Ugly Betty," "Desperate Housewives" and "Cashmere Mafia." (The seventh regular LGBT character is Oscar Martinez on NBC's "The Office," the only one such character of color on broadcast TV.)

"Brothers" is singled out as "the bright spot on primetime network dramas," with its three gay or bisexual characters.

The highest-profile new addition of gay characters is on "Desperate Housewives," which will introduce the first gay couple on Wisteria Lane, played by Kevin Rahm and Tuc Watkins in recurring roles.

"Cashmere Mafia," "Brothers & Sisters" and "Desperate Housewives" come from openly gay producers.

In the recurring character count, ABC has six of the 13 on broadcast series next season: "Brothers," "Housewives," "Grey's Anatomy," "Men in Trees" and the new drama, "Dirty Sexy Money." Fox features four (all on animated series, "The Simpsons" and "American Dad!"), and NBC has three on "ER" and "Friday Night Lights."

Reality shows

According to the report, CBS and its sister network, the CW, have no representation of LGBT characters on their scripted series, but the two networks earn points for including gay contestants and judges on such reality shows as CBS' "Survivor: China," "The Amazing Race" and "Big Brother," and the CW's "Crowned" and "America's Next Top Model."

"While we acknowledge there have been improvements made in how we are seen on the broadcast networks, most notably on ABC, our declining representation clearly indicates a failure to inclusively reflect the audience watching television," mused GLAAD president Neil Giuliano.

On the other hand, LGBT representation on mainstream cable networks is skyrocketing—with 57 characters this year, including 40 regular characters, up from last year's total of 35!

Reuters

Steve Carell is funnier in real life

From page G1

laugh-out-loud movie, or is it serious like the Bond films?

I didn't want it to be a spy spoof, because that has been done. I wanted it to be more of a comedic "Bourne Identity," so it has a lot of action. The bad guys are villainous, scary and funny at the same time. I did all sorts of stunts—hanging off buildings, airplanes and running through exploding rooftops. I did stuff I never thought I would ever do!

Since you play an agent, what qualities do you think would make a good one?

Composure, nerves of steel and being a swab—*not* suave *(laughter)*. He should be a debonair and attractive to…

Women?

. . .women. Women would find it hard to resist me *(laughter)*.

Do you know what your original family name, Caroselli, means?

I was told that it meant wild horses.

When television first came to Italy, there were 10 minutes of commercials called "carosello."

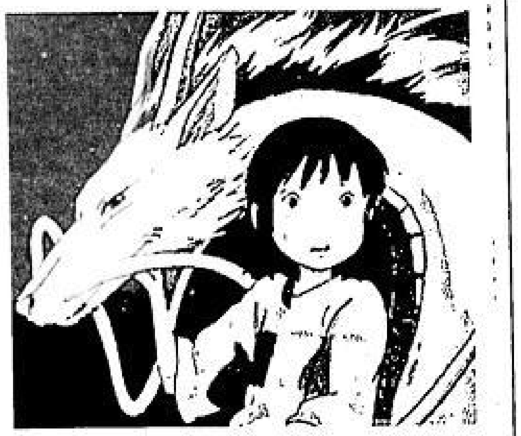
I am a bunch of commercials. I think "wild horses" is sexier *(laughter)*!

E-mail rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com, and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.

Animé features run the gamut from porn to 'Pokemon'

ANIMÉ HAS BECOME A PERVASIVE influence on many entertainment forms these days, but some people missed out on the Japanese fantasy format's early beginnings.

Since those early days harbor the core of animé's primal impulse, some confusion has resulted, watering down the authentic power of the format's contributions. To help make up for this slack, Maitland McDonagh brings us up to snuff on the "art and soul" of animé:


"SPIRITED AWAY." The magical children's tale won an Oscar in 2003.

Mainstream

Animé officially went mainstream in 2002, when Hayao Miyazaki's complex, magical children's tale, "Spirited Away" won an Oscar. But, Japanese feature-length animation runs the gamut from Pokemon to porno, and a bewildering number of titles fill video store shelves:

"Akira" (1988). The violent postapocalyptic action-adventure that opened the world's eyes to the fact that there was more to Japanese animation than "Astro Boy" and "Speed Racer."

"Grave of the Fireflies" (1988). A wrenching drama about a teenager trying to keep himself and his little sister alive in the countryside outside devastated Kobe during the last desperate days of WWII.

"Legend of the Overfriend" (1993). Warring demons use modern-day teenagers to fight their ancient, perpetual war; the high- (or low-) water mark of the sex-and-tentacles school of ultraviolent, erotic supernatural thrillers.

"Ghost in the Shell" (1995) and **"Ghost in the Shell 2" (2004).** Moody futuristic crime thrillers that unfold in a world where the line between man and machine is increasingly blurred.

Obsessive fan

"Perfect Blue" (1997). A squeaky-clean teen pop star tries to reinvent herself as an adult actress in a lurid TV crime series, but is tormented by an obsessive fan—or is it her own conscience that's taunting her?

"Jin-Roh: The Wolf Brigade" (1999). Set in the early '60s, this thriller about rebels using young girls dubbed "Red Riding-Hoods" as suicide bombers and the "Wolf Brigade," a rogue force within the government's anti-terrorism unit, unfold in an alternate Japan that lost the Second World War to Germany, instead of to the United States!

"Blood: The Last Vampire" (2000). A schoolgirl vampire slayer who may not be what she seems investigates a Vietnam-era American military base in Japan plagued by bloodsuckers in this gory supernatural action story with political overtones.

Bounty hunter

"Cowboy Bebop: The Movie" (2001). A loosely-knit team of perpetually cash-strapped futuristic bounty hunters—including a grizzled ex-cop, high-strung teenaged computer genius, and an unnaturally intelligent corgi—stumble onto a plot involving biological weapons in this spin-off from a series famous for its eclectic, ultracool pop soundtrack.

"Escaflowne" (2002): A depressed schoolgirl slips into an alternate world of warring clans and magical beings in this "Lord of the Rings"-meets-"The Wizard of Oz" fantasy, a darker spin-off from a popular TV series.

"Millennium Actress" (2003). Past and present, reality and fiction blend seamlessly in this dreamlike drama about a reclusive actress and the documentary filmmaker determined to find out why she abruptly abandoned her career 30 years earlier.

AT THE CINEMAS

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	4 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL	5 FRIGHTFEST	6 HALLOWEEN	7 RENDITION
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GREENBELT 3	1 THX 30 DAYS OF NIGHT GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX HALLOWEEN GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 DADDY DAY CAMP GUARANTEED SEATS	4 RENDITION GUARANTEED SEATS	5 BALLS OF FURY GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX HALLOWEEN	2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT		
	3 BALLS OF FURY	4 STARDUST	5 RENDITION	
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Ayala Malls

glorietta	Halloween Treat: Dorothy and the Witches of Oz - A Trumpets Musical Theater Performance October 28; 5pm to 6pm; Glorietta Activity Center
GREENBELT	Trick or Treat at Greenbelt 3 Park October 25 to 28 and 31
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Dole Pumpkin Carving Contest October 28; Town Plaza
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Clear Product Launch October 27 to 28; Activity Center
MARKET! MARKET!	Sesame Street Party November 2; Activity Center
Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids August - December 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM	HYBRIDITY: Mark Lewis Higgins September 18 to October 28, 2007; Ground Floor For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
Tri Noma	Sesame Street Party October 28; Activity Center

HALLOWEEN FILM FESTIVAL
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VILLAGE OF THE DAMNED
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12:30 PM

THE SERPENT & THE RAINBOW
MTRCB Rating: R-18
3:00 PM

THE THING
MTRCB Rating: R-18
5:30 PM

VAMPIRE IN BROOKLYN
8:00 PM

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SHADOW OF A DOUBT
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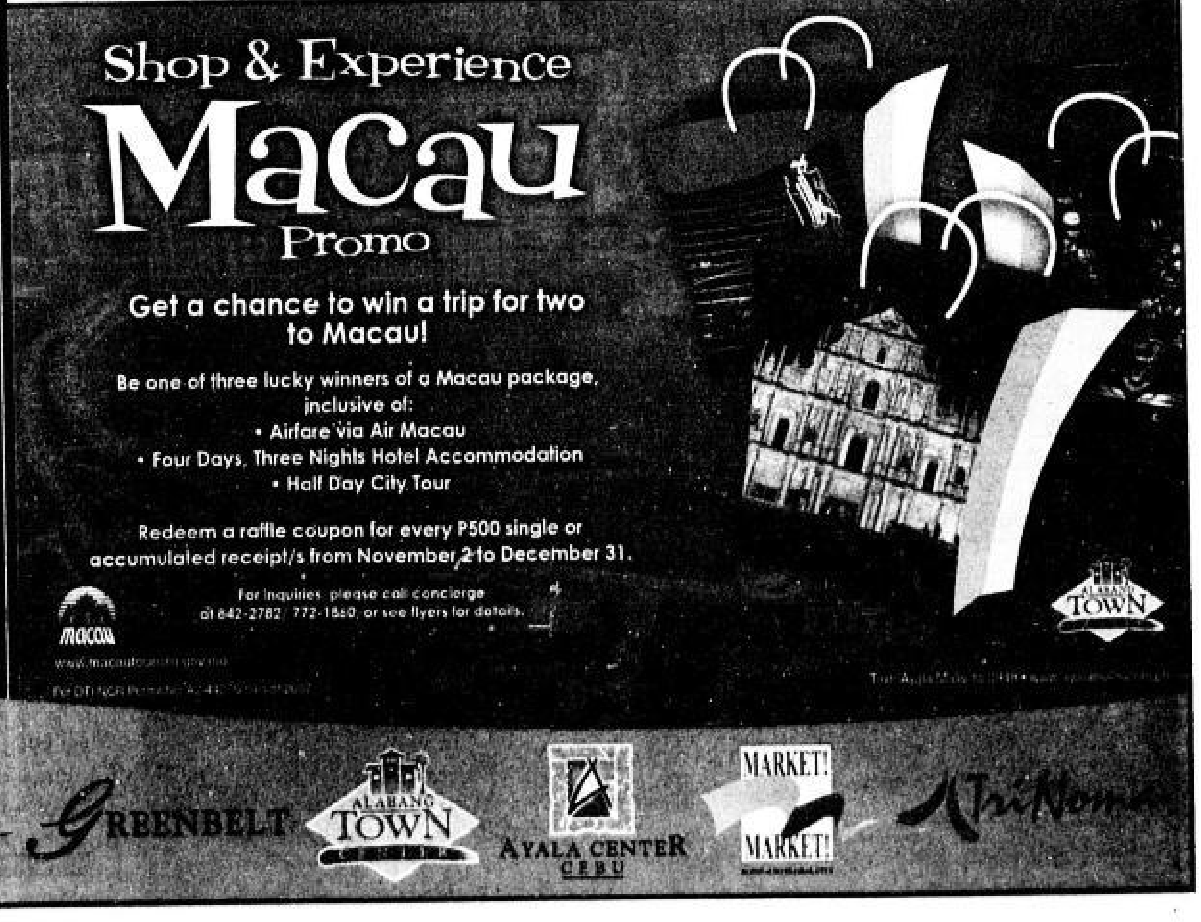
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NOW SHOWING

Ang Lee throws caution to the wind in erotic espionage drama

By Rito P. Asilo

"Lust, Caution"

D: Ang Lee
S: Tony Leung, Wei Tang, Lee-Hom Wang, Joan Chen

THE LAST TIME ANG LEE WON the Venice Film Festival's coveted Golden Lion Award, it was for 2005's "Brokeback Mountain," the exquisitely handled gay love story that eventually brought him an Oscar for Best Director.

Recently, the 53-year-old *auteur* copped another cinematic triumph when his latest production, the scorchingly erotic espionage drama, "Lust, Caution," bagged yet another Golden Lion trophy—and deservingly so.

The film follows the daring exploits of a shy university student, Wong Chia Chi (Wei Tang), after she joins a seemingly innocuous amateur theater troupe in Shanghai, headed by handsome idealist, Kuang Yu Min (Lee-Hom Wang), during World War II.

When Kuang convenes and convinces the group to take on a bolder and more proactive stand in China's combustible socio-political environment, Wong finds herself playing a crucial role in the "operation"—as pawn and bait—to lure and exterminate Mr. Yee (Tony Leung), an influential Japanese collaborator with a brooding stare and an insatiable sexual appetite.

Three years later, the innocent lass has turned into an elegant mistress who will stop at nothing, not even sex, to complete her mission—but, at what price?

The versatile director ("Sense and Sensibility," "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," "The Ice Storm") spins another gripping morality tale that displays his storytelling sense, theatrical flair and technical mastery.

This time, Lee juxtaposes his film's politics with the bristling sexual tension that seethes from the chemistry between Yee and Wong—which the director unflinchingly shows off in scenes that sizzle with lyrical intensity and no-holds-barred conviction.

With his confident thespic touch and sensitivity, the iconic Leung limns his character with finely-tuned nuances and smoldering subtlety as he transports viewers to a brutal, distant past gripped by conflicting moral persuasions.

For her part, the luminous Tang shines in a career-making performance that will surely boost her movie-star cachet in years to come.

Under Lee's tutelage, Leung and Tang deftly imbue the film's sexually graphic scenes with honesty and earnest abandon as they dramatize the lead characters' love and lust for each other. Without those scenes, there's no doubt Wong's journey wouldn't be as powerful and empathetic.

Ang Lee's latest production is not for the faint-hearted: Clocking in at two hours and 37 minutes, the movie's protracted running time and its startlingly graphic scenes of sex and violence may turn off queasy, conservative viewers—but the visceral payoff at film's end will more than make up for its shortcomings. Don't miss it.

LEUNG AND TANG. Imbue the film's sexually graphic scenes with honesty and earnest abandon.

'INTO THE WOODS' AT MUSIC MUSEUM

Catch the New Voice Company's 13th season offering, Stephen Sondheim's "Into the Woods," from Nov. 9 to Dec. 8, Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m. at the Music Museum. The Tony Award-winning musical features an exciting cast that includes (bottom, from left) Joaqui Valdes, Mika Margolles, Angela Padilla, Crisel Consunji and Missy Maramara; (middle, from left) Tommy Abuel, Juno Henares, Michael Williams, Lynn Sherman, Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo and Cathy Azanza, and (top, from left) Red Concepcion, Madeleine Nicolas, John Mulhall, Jamie Wilson, Maita Ponce and Amiel Mendoza. Call 896-5497 or 891-9999.

Hit religious musical boosts laudable initiatives

"NASAAN SI HESUS?," LOURDES "Bing" dela Llana-Pimentel's acclaimed and long-running religious musical revue, will be staged anew on Nov. 13 at 5 and 8 p.m. at the GSIS Auditorium, Roxas blvd., Pasay City.

The fundraising performances will support the laudable projects of the Buhay Isang Awit Foundation (scholarship, livelihood, cultural and value formation initiatives), Dr. Justo de Llana Foundation, the Catholic Media Network, and the CBCP's Episcopal Commission on Social Communication and Mass media.

Very real problems

"Nasaan si Hesus?" has been praised because it tackles in dramatic, comedic and musical terms, the very real problems, issues and dilemmas that Christians face today—streetchildren, teen pregnancy, injustice at the workplace, loss of faith, corrupt politicians, philandering husbands, etc. Call 851-3120.

Supporting the Nov. 13 performances are Senate President Manny and Rep. Cynthia Villar, Sen. Loren Legarda, Smart, Megaworld, Metrobank Foundation Inc., The First Tri-Media Group of Companies, Shoemart, SR Metals Inc., Foundation Specialists Inc., Mr. and Mrs. Manny Cuevas, Bryant and Eimee Cragun and GSIS.

PIMENTEL. Her popular theatrical revue tackles issues in dramatic, comedic and musical terms.

Cast

The musical revue's cast is made up of some of the best musical-theater talents in the country—**Rito Asilo, Andy Bais, Shiela Asuncion, Russell Magno, Cecil, Roy and Roychelle Torre, Jan Alexander and Mica.**

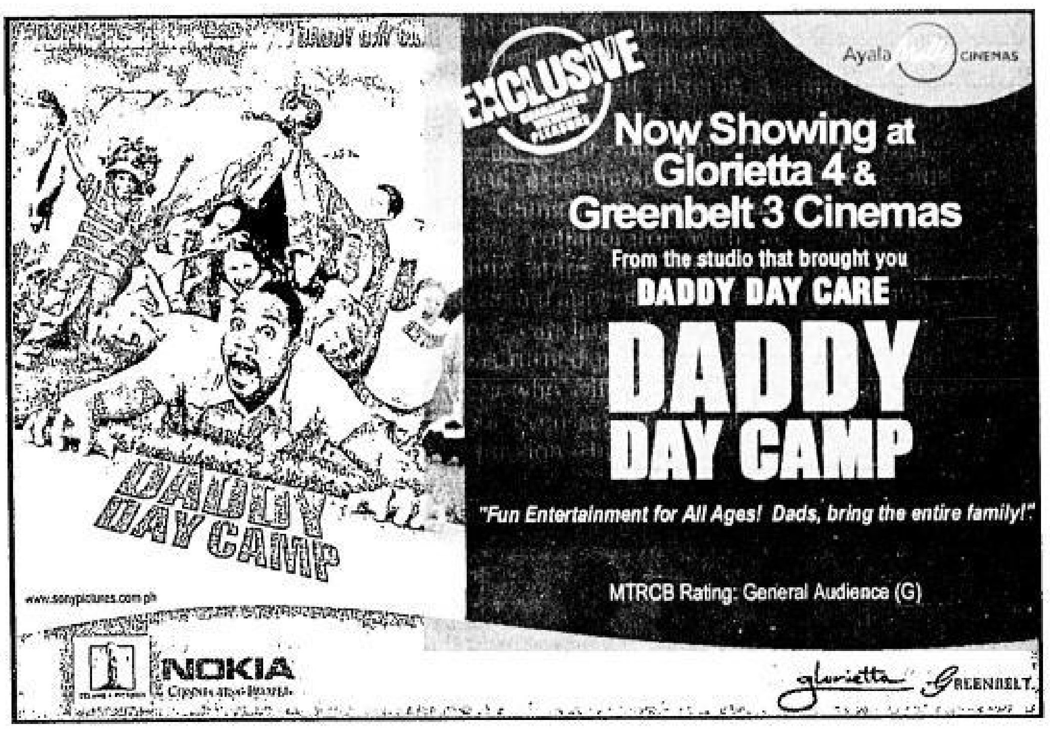
The acclaimed religious musical has been cited by Auxiliary Bishop of Manila Bernardino C. Cortez, D.D., for "Touching not only our Christian faith and sensibilities, but also challenging us to concretely involve ourselves in the plight of our brothers in need."

Funds

He thus encourages "each Christian who wants to take his Christianity seriously to support the Sagip Buhay Radio School-On-Air by patronizing the musical's repeat performances, in order to generate funds for its continuance." Bishop Ortiz is also the chairman of the CBCP Episcopal Commission on Mass Media and Social Communications.

For his part, Fr. James B. Reuter, S.J., observes, "This revue is coming to us at exactly the right time. All over the nation, there is a rising resentment against graft, corruption, selfishness, ambition and greed. We feel that it has gone on too long—it has to stop.

"So, we pray that 'Nasaan si Hesus' will achieve the purpose for which it was created—that it will fill your mind with the beauty of God, your heart with His love, your will with His strength, and your whole being with the fullness of His life!"



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'Kid Nation' courageously confronts potentially troubling issues

By Nestor U. Torre

THE SECOND TELECAST OF "KID Nation" of Studio 23 last Sunday, Oct. 21, was a bit less significant than its premiere episode the week before, but it still sustained our interest.

This time, the 39 kids comprising the show's little "nation" had to face the emotional challenge of killing and cooking two chickens to boost their diet of canned goods. The city kids cringed, but 15-year-old Greg, who had apprenticed with a butcher one summer, took charge and spared the others the bloody trauma.

Animal lovers

The "execution" was opposed by some animal lovers, but the majority had its way, and the kids had a "feast" of chicken stew last night.

The other big deal in the second telecast was the challenge that would revamp the "class hierarchy" that had been established in the small community:

The Green group had been placed in the lowest worker category, so its members were determined to top the new challenge, in order for them to move up in the class rankings.

Alas, they also did poorly in the second challenge, so they were compelled to remain at "laborer" level. Worse, they failed to complete the challenge, so the entire community didn't get the perks it had been promised.

REALITY children's show serves as a 'practical' reminder to children about how things really are in adult life.

When it came to the new "gold stars" prize, two kids were in hot contention for it: Michael, the great speaker and motivator, and Greg, the "executioner."

Motives

Greg really wanted to win the prize, so he volunteered for additional tasks around the building complex. But, the "nation's" young leaders may have doubted his motives, so the award went to Michael, instead. Well, Greg can win it next time.

As the reality challenge continues to unfold, its value to viewers is becoming clearer: The show places children in situations that require them to be responsible, proactive and creative in the way they deal with problems that are usually left to adults to solve.

This "social experiment" fascinates both kids and their parents for different reasons. Children are determined to prove that they can behave responsibly, while their folks are torn between feelings of pride and concern.

Indeed, they have reason to feel fretful, because "Kid Nation" has become controversial for sometimes "challenging" its younger "citizens" too rigorously.

The community's rigid "class hierarchy" has also been criticized for imposing strict delineations which could run counter to the tenets of democracy and upward mobility.

Reality

On the other hand, it's a "practical" reminder to children about how things really are in the adult world, so the sooner they deal with that reality, the better.

What's instructive about "Kid Nation" is its courage in confronting potentially troubling issues and serving as a forum for positive and negative views about them.

As the show's young "pioneers" work hard to create their brave, new world in the desert, we trust that both young and adult viewers are also working through those challenging issues in their own lives and spheres.

HALLOWEEN FILM FESTIVAL
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Alfred Hitchcock's SHADOW OF A DOUBT
Starring: Teresa Wright & Joseph Cotten
A young woman thinks her uncle may be the serial killer "The Merry Widow Murderer", an evil strangler wanted in connection with the deaths of several rich East coast widows.
Screening Schedules: 12:30 pm, 5:30 & 10:30
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
Alfred Hitchcock's THE MAN WHO KNEW TOO MUCH
Starring: James Stewart & Doris Day
American tourists discover more than they wanted to know about an assassination plot. When their son is kidnapped to keep them quiet, they are caught between concern for him and the terrible secret they hold.
Screening Schedules: 2:00 pm & 8:00 pm
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
WATCH THE HALLOWEEN FILM FESTIVAL & GET SPECIAL TREATS FROM
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Per DTI-NCR Permit # A2-470, Series of 2007
NEXT ATTRACTION Alfred Hitchcock's "THE BIRDS" & "REAR WINDOW" (Nov. 4 - Sun.)
MagnaVision
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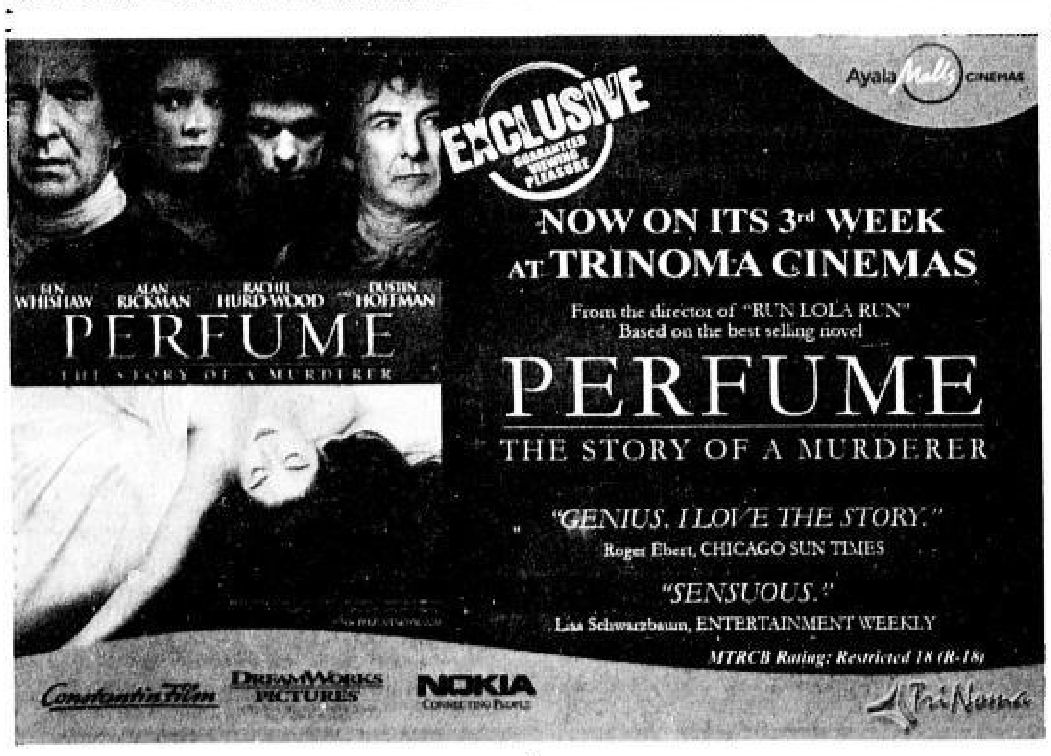

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Hepburn papers reveal woman . . .

From page G1

"I have been arrested by this moron."

In 1971, Hepburn fought for her right to use the word, "shit," in the Los Angeles production of "Coco," arguing for its artistic merit.

She describes the barring of the word as "curiously head in the sand" in "an era of literature and cinema and theater, where every other expression is a four-letter word. To me, it's a seriously arbitary decision and a false one—and, alas, one which injures very much our play."

Hepburn prevailed, the expletive went back in, and to mark her victory, she saved a letter from the producers to one Miss Esther Mackrow of Los Angeles, who registered the first written objection over the matter. "Miss Hepburn was quite right," the producers wrote.

Reuters